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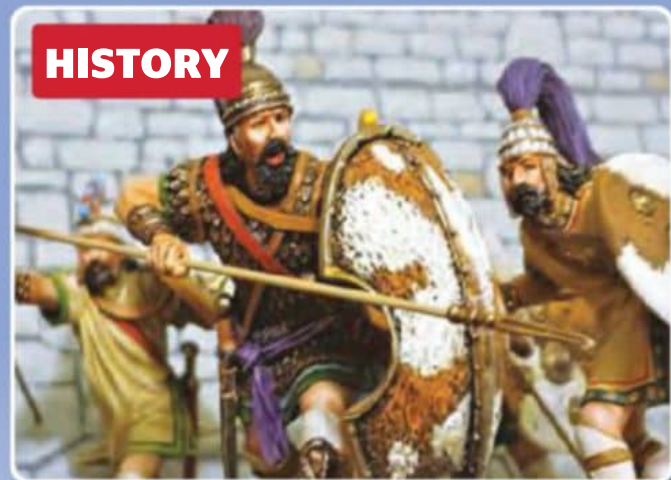
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HISTORY



**Digging Into
The Ancient
Legend of Troy**

ISSN 2631-3073



Guideline Publications

ISSN: 2631-3073



GERMAN FROZEN PATH

Combined Scales Diorama Project



London Show Despatches

Cinematic Napoleonic Display

Artistic Collector's Story

British State Dress

West Point Cadet Conversions

Old Britains 'Rocking Horses'

FEATURES



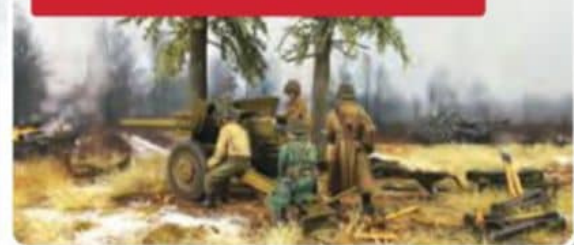
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TOY SOLDIER COLLECTOR

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We're as serious about collecting as you are

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W. Britain**

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W W II

1943

W W II

Xuan Hua
Miniature

Happy New Year



XHSS006



XHSG016



XHSG012



XHSS007



XHSG017



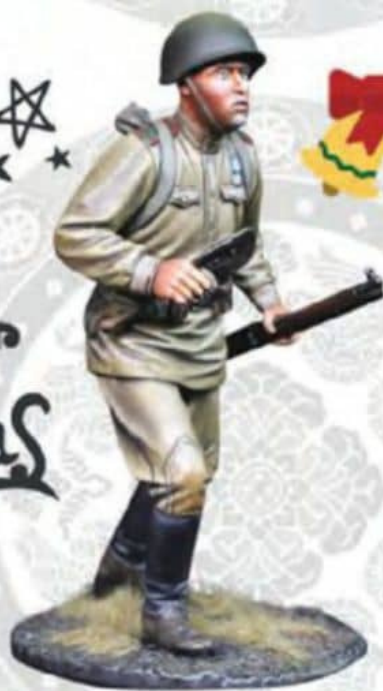
XHSG013



XHSS008



XHSS005



XHSS004



XHSG015



XHSG014

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Christmas

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Welcome



Welcome to the latest issue of the world's No. 1 magazine for hobbyists who share a collective passion for all types of toy soldiers and historical figures. As usual, this edition is jam-packed with news from our hobby's frontlines, reviews of recent releases, historical features with a toy soldier spin, stories with some wonderful personal touches and excellent insights into modelling

For example, Enrique Carrasco details how he mustered model figures of World War II German soldiers and scenic effects to create a realistic 'Frozen Path' combined scales diorama based on winter warfare along the Eastern Front. 'Kit Korner' columnist Paul Newman researches, builds and paints a model figure depicting Britain's Earl of Uxbridge during the Napoleonic Wars.

Hobbyists with an interest in converting figures will want to be sure to check out what Raymond E. Bell Jr. does with old Britains West Point cadets based on his alma mater. Old Britains aficionados should also get a kick out of how our own 'Talking Toy Soldiers' columnist James Opie delves into the

genesis and variants of cavalrymen on 'rocking horses' charging into action. Myths, history and collecting converge in an article titled 'The Legend of Troy' penned by Gary Emery. In addition, Joseph Reed recruits figures from his collection to illustrate the long history and colourful ceremonial pageantry behind traditional British State Dress.

US enthusiast Jake Jacobs shares a report on the 32nd Annual South Carolina Military Miniature Society Show staged in October. Military artist Dan Nance, who hails from North Carolina, recounts how discovering his business partner's closet full of military miniatures led to him creating themed rooms full of varied historical dioramas, and it has triggered ambitious plans to entertain, educate and inspire others by hosting tours and using social media.

In addition, Contributing Editor George Phillips delivers a full account of December's London Toy Soldier & Historical Figures show organised by Guideline Publications, parent company of this magazine. Besides the usual amazing array of old toy soldiers and freshly minted figures, the Christmastime edition of the event was noteworthy because it was attended by some notable and affable overseas visitors who had not been able to make the trip in a while due to the coronavirus pandemic or other reasons. They included Andy C. Neilson, cofounder and creative director of Hong Kong-based King & Country Ltd., and a team from US-based W. Britain Model Figures spearheaded by Ken and Ericka Osen.

As usual, there is a whole lot more in store in this edition, including lots of news, reviews and how-to tips, so please start turning the pages and enjoy. And, as always, happy collecting!

All the best,
Stuart A. Hessney
 Editor

TOY SOLDIER COLLECTOR

& HISTORICAL FIGURES

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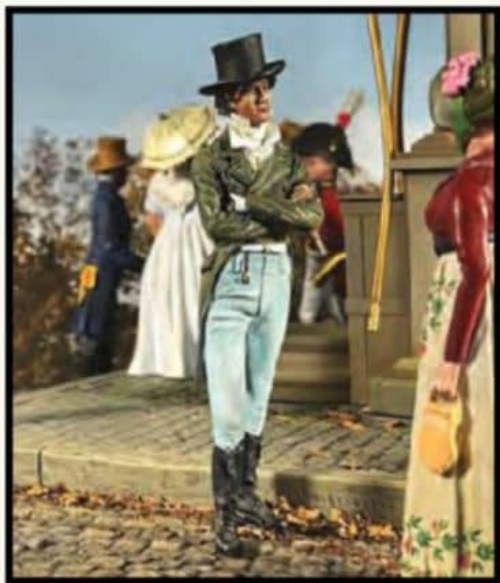
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31252.....\$48
Confederate General George Pickett



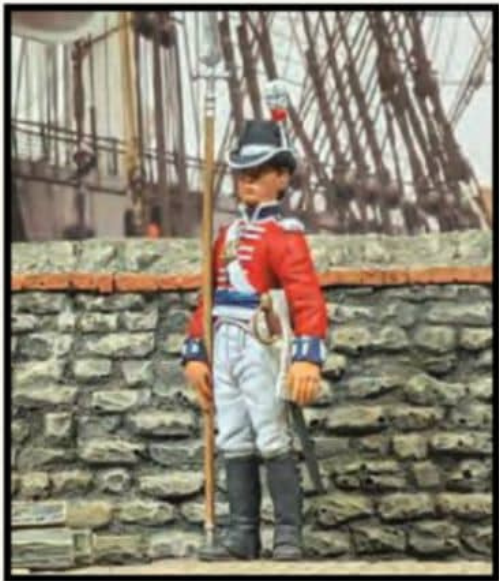
10167.....\$48
U.S.N. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz,
1944-45



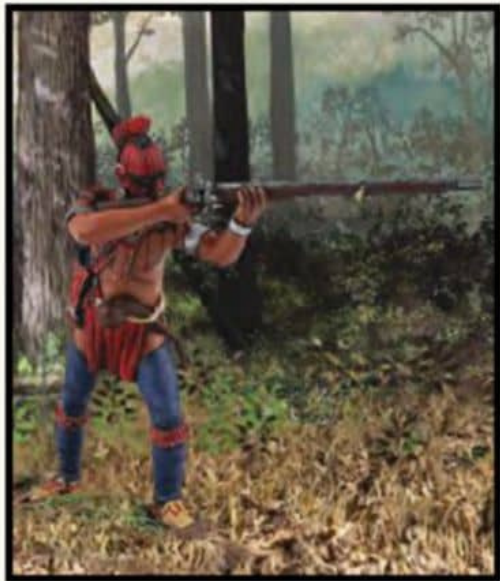
35048.....\$48
Mr. Darcy
Listens Intently, 1800-15



10125.....\$48
Dolley Madison, 1805-15



13069.....\$48
British Royal Marine Sergeant, 1803-16



16034.....\$48
Eastern Woodland Indian
Standing Firing, No.1



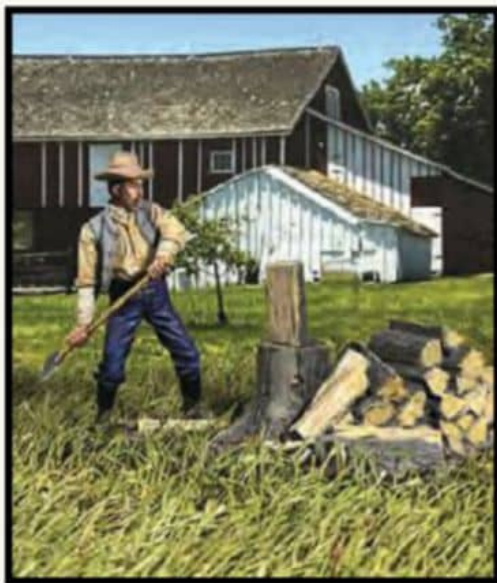
13089.....\$48
U.S.N. Sailor in "Crackerjacks,"
1930-45



10134.....\$49
British General James Wolfe, 1759



10135.....\$49
French General Marquis de Montcalm,
1759



35049.....\$58
I Don't Mind Chopping Wood
Virgil Caine with Axe, 1855-65

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Noticeboard

The latest news from across the hobby

Email any hobby-related news to the editor at stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com

or alternatively write in to: Guideline Publications 6 Kensworth Gate, 200-204 High Street South, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU6 3HS.

Campaign Miniatures Kits Launched by W. Britain

By Stuart A. Hessney

W. Britain Model Figures climaxed its brand name's 130th anniversary year by launching a captivating Campaign Miniatures range of 1/30-scale kits both modelled after and compatible with its painted metal soldiers, vehicles and accessories.

The US maker has deployed advanced design work, 3D printing and other exacting production techniques with high-quality materials for the benefit of model builders and painters. The polyurethane resin kits have

no flash and little pitting. Any metal components feature clean finishes and they are sturdy. For example, the gun tubes on tanks are Computer Numerical Control (CNC) turned to achieve a level of precision only found in computer machined metal. Detailed but user-friendly instructions are provided to guide the assembly process.

President and Creative Director Kenneth A. Osen enthused, "Our model kits are simple to assemble, but by no means are they simple toys. They are highly detailed and

historically accurate model kits with the clean-up and prep already done so you can

get to the fun of painting and detailing right away!"

Ken, his wife Ericka and other members of the W. Britain team debuted Campaign Miniatures at the Guideline Publications London Toy Soldier & Historical Figures Show on Saturday, 2 December, and the London Plastic Modelling Show on Sunday, 3 December, at Haverstock School.

Pricing wasn't available at the time of this writing, but Ken expected to have Campaign Miniatures available for sale from W. Britain's website and all its dealers in January.



Campaign Miniatures resin 'Napoleon Bonaparte, Standing' (ref. 70011).



World War II German 'Luftwaffe Fighter Pilot, 1939-45' (ref. 70019) from the Campaign Miniatures lineup.



Unboxed World War II US Army Sherman M4A3 medium tank kit (ref. 70001) by Campaign Miniatures.

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US West Coaster Show Headed to New Venue

By Stuart A. Hessney

The Pasadena Elks Lodge will host the West Coaster show for the first time on Sunday, 3 March.

Organiser Matthew Murphy has scheduled the US West Coaster Show and Sale for 09:30 to 15:00 Sunday, 3 March, at a new location: the Pasadena Elks Lodge, 400 West Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena, USA. Admission is \$8 per adult or two for \$15 with children under age 15 free. Early bird admission at 08:00 costs \$20.

The event has been staged at hotels in the past thereby making preshow room trading possible. For traders wishing to engage in room trading before this year's show, Matt has booked a block of rooms at the Saga Motor Hotel Pasadena, 1633 East Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena. He described it as a "classic motel along the old Route 66." If calling or booking online, use the words 'Matt Murphy' to get the \$120 per night group rate. The motel is located about three miles from the Elks Lodge.



Morgan Miniatures Gives Sneak Preview of Outlaws

By George Phillips

Our last issue 114 featured photos of 60mm castings produced by Morgan Miniatures depicting the notorious Australian bushranger Ned Kelly and members of his gang.

Bushrangers were nineteenth-century armed robbers who disappeared into the bush to evade capture after committing crimes. Kelly and his gang raided, robbed and murdered, including killing a number of law enforcement officers, before their luck finally changed and they were either killed or captured in a shootout with police at Glenrowan, Victoria.

Now I'm pleased to provide readers with a sneak preview of the painted production figures expected to be available shortly. Sculpted by Andrew C. Stadden, the gang members are accurately portrayed wearing crude iron armour and duster coats. They are armed with carbines, revolvers and shotguns.

Proprietor Gareth Morgan has produced Ned holding a shotgun and revolver in two versions either showing his face with a full beard or wearing his helmet. Figures of three other gang members, including Ned's brother Dan, Joe Byrne and Steve Hart, are similarly armed to the teeth. The Kelly Gang figures are all priced at £40.

In addition, Gareth has released new pose variations to reinforce his range based on a French Foreign Legion detachment's last stand against Mexican forces during the Battle of Camarón in 1863. They retail for £35 apiece.



Ned Kelly is shown with and without his helmet along with three other members of his gang from the left. Maker Gareth Morgan noted that the production version of the outlaw at right will be holding a rifle with his left hand.



French Foreign Legion reinforcements for recreating the Battle of Camarón available from Morgan Miniatures.

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Medieval crossbowmen sculpted by Alan Ball and available from ACE Miniatures. (Photo by Andy Whittaker)

ACE Miniatures Unveils Striking Medieval Items

By George Phillips

It's always a pleasure to bump into George Johnson of ACE Miniatures at the London Toy Soldier & Historical Figures Show, and as usual, his display cases were bulging with high-quality miniatures Saturday, 2 December, at the Haverstock School.

ACE specialises in supplying hobbyists in the UK and beyond with high-quality castings from Eastern European makers in 54mm and 75mm scales. George has also launched his own connoisseur range based on master figures by British sculptor Alan Ball and cast in Britain. It was a pair of Hundred Years War crossbowmen sculpted by Alan that caught my eye at the show. Each 54mm figure is sheltered behind a pavise - a large rectangular shield designed to provide protection against enemy archers. It was not unusual for a religious icon to be painted on the front of a pavise. Artist Josephine Bryant, who does connoisseur-style painting for ACE, has done a superb job of reproducing medieval-style Christian icons on the fronts of the miniature shields. The painted figures were priced at £70 each and the castings were available at £25 each.

George was also offering a mind-blowing 3D-printed vignette of a crusader handing a captured Saracen helmet to his liege lord. The figures and base were rendered in a

resin-like material and the detailing was simply awesome. If you feel that your brushwork is up to the challenge, this piece can be yours for £50.



ACE'S 3D-printed Crusades vignette. (Photo by Andy Whittaker)

Trains and Toy Soldiers Moves to New Location

By Stuart A. Hessney

Trains and Toy Soldiers proprietor Franklin B. Way has moved his shop to a new "bigger and better" location at the Old Cheney Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA.

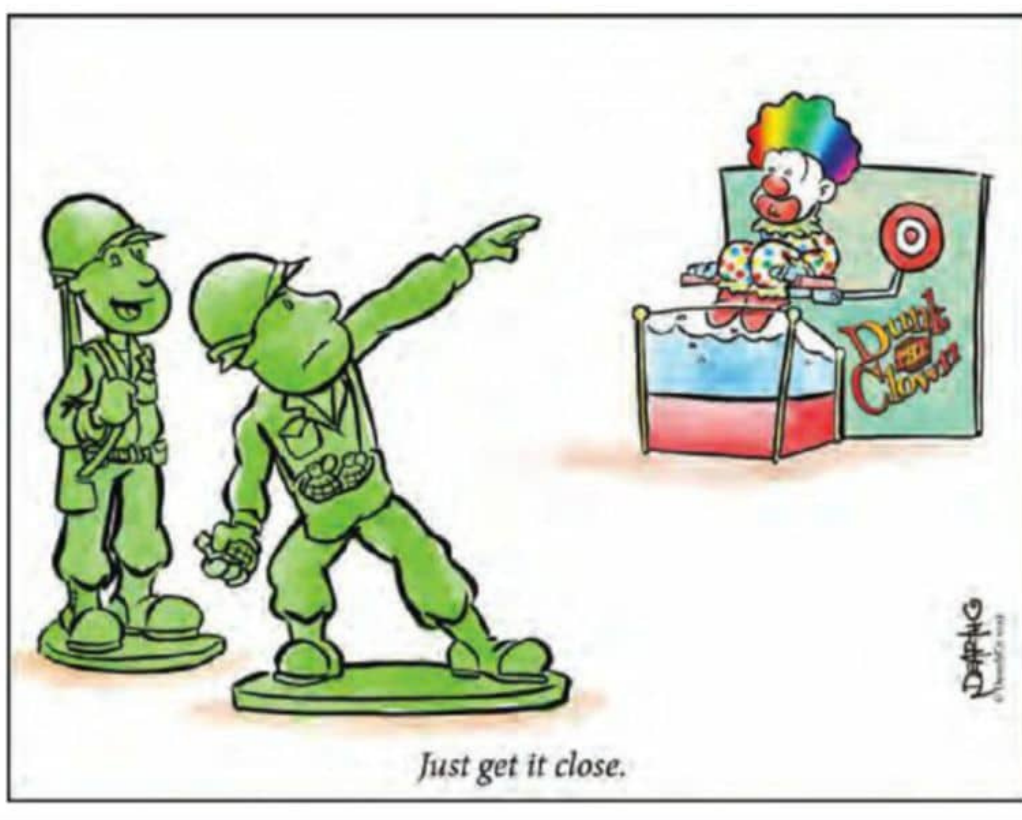
As detailed in TSC&HF issue 108, Frank launched his business for 'kids of all ages' in 2016. Besides being a dealer for contemporary makers such as W. Britain Model Figures and The British Toy Soldier Company, the amiable owner stocks a constantly changing array of old and new toy soldiers made of metal, plastic and composition. Model trains of all types are another one of his areas of expertise.

Hobbyists can explore the store's offerings either online, by phone or in person at 5500 Old Cheney Road, Suite #7, Lincoln, NE 68515.



American Frank Way's Trains and Toy Soldiers shop has a new location in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Cartoon by Doug Dearth



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New Releases

Our top-shelf team delivers news of new painted metal figures arriving on dealers' and collectors' shelves.



'Lion' (ref. ACC Pack 098A) on a grassy base.



'Tiger' (ref. ACC Pack 099B) on a grey base.

Thomas Gunn Miniatures

Various New Releases

During the course of *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), the musical fantasy movie's heroine young Dorothy Gale, her little dog Toto, the Scarecrow and the Tin Man advance along the Yellow Brick Road through a dark and forbidding forest. Contemplating possible dangers looming ahead, they start chanting 'lions and tigers and bears, oh my!' just before they encounter who else but the Cowardly Lion.

This cinematic moment sprang to mind because new releases from Thomas Gunn Miniatures (TGM) include both a lion and a tiger. Since I am unable to resist a bad pun, it seems unbearable that this UK brand has not unleashed a 1/30-scale bear too, but at least it has issued lots of flag bearers through the years.

Ancient World

Several new matt-painted items could breathe life into a range of scenarios ranging from gladiatorial combat to a slave market in Ancient Rome.

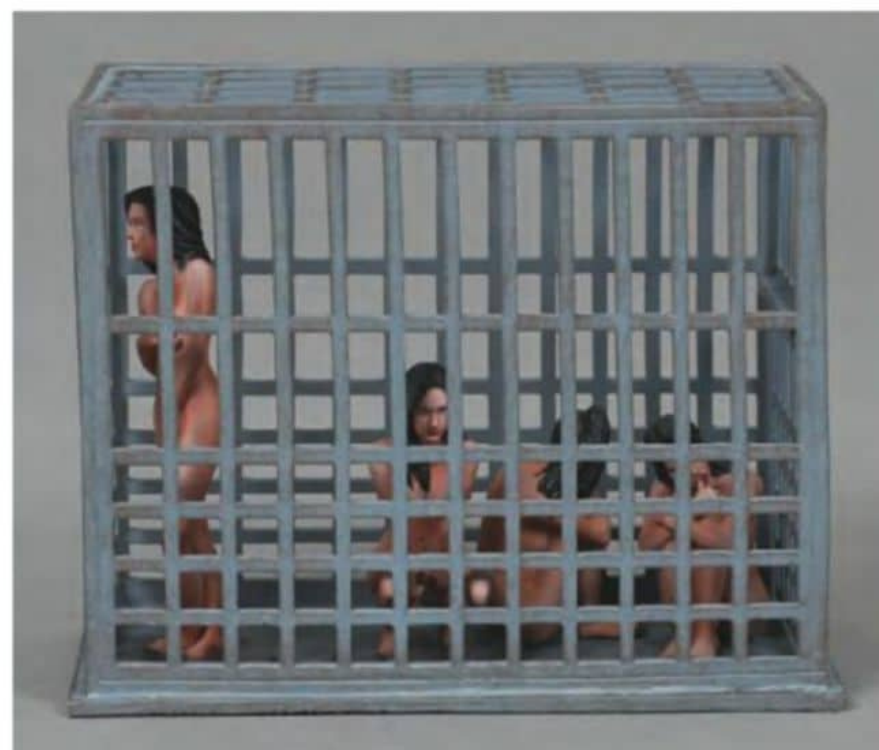
An intimidating new 'Lion' (ref. ACC Pack 098) and 'Tiger' (ref. ACC Pack 099) are both attractively modelled and

available with a choice of a grass base (A version) or a grey base (B variant) in case a collector wishes to display it in the new 'Iron Cage' (ref. ACC Pack 104) made of metal. TGM has also taken the wraps off four different poses of nude slave girls available as either blondes or brunettes and a lounging 'Girl on a Lion

Skin' (ref. ROM163B). Marketplaces ranging from the Ancient world to contemporary times could gain a rainbow of colours with an eleven-piece 'Exotic Fruit Set' (ref. ACC Pack 102) to complement previously released veggies.

Legendary Romanian

An intimidating new figure clad in red armour portrays 'Vlad the Impaler' (ref. MLB010). Also known as Vlad III Dracula, he was the military governor of Wallachia in fifteenth-century Romania. His cruel ways of punishing foes and anyone else who crossed him made



The new 'Iron Cage' (ref. ACC Pack 104) confines Ancient Roman slave girls sold separately.



'Girl on a Lion Skin' (ref. ROM163B).



TGM's goes to market with the 'Exotic Fruit Set' (ref. ACC Pack 102).



'Vlad the Impaler' (ref. MLB010).

him legendary. It has been estimated that he killed more than 80,000 people, including 20,000 who were impaled on wooden stakes. Vlad is also said to have drunk the blood of his victims. He is thought to have been the inspiration for author Bram Stoker's fictional novel *Dracula* (1897) and movie adaptations.

Wintertime GIs

In addition, TGM is issuing two American fighting men geared for winter warfare during the Korean War and sold separately. The same basic sculptures depict a 'Radio Operator' in either a camouflaged or white helmet (ref. KOREA009A and

B, respectively) or a soldier 'Scanning the Horizon' (ref. KOREA010A and B). Prices for the aforementioned items range from around £50 to £60/\$55 to \$75 US. I usually prefer to cover things available for purchase in this space, but I think readers might also enjoy a sneak peek at a US truck and 155mm howitzer both being planned for release in early 2024. The maker plans to roll out an olive drab version of the truck in markings appropriate for World War II, Korea and Indochina conflicts.



US Marines geared for winter combat during the Korean War include a 'Radio Operator' in a white helmet (KOREA009B) and a buddy scanning the horizon for enemy activity (KOREA0010B).

CONTACT

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Tel: +44 (0)203 314 0090
Website: www.tomgunn.co.uk
E-mail: Welcome@gunnclub.co.uk

Sneak peek at a US truck and 155mm howitzer planned for future release.



Asset Miniatures

Various New Releases

Asset Miniatures is well-known within the hobby for producing charming, gloss-painted 54mm figures that portray the military, civilian and ceremonial life of Great Britain. Proprietor Anne Randall has been an unfaltering presence at the London Toy Soldier & Historical Figures Show for decades and unveiled some exciting new releases at the 2 December event.

Reviewed by George Phillips

Ceremonial 25-Pounder

First up is an Ordnance QF 25-pounder crewed by members of the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) in ceremonial uniforms. Introduced to the British Army shortly before World War II, this type of field artillery gun had a maximum muzzle velocity of 1,750 feet per second and could deliver its 25-pound shell at ranges of up to 13,400 yards. Considered by many to be one of the finest artillery pieces of the war, the 25-pounder had a rapid rate of fire and a 360-degree field of fire due to its innovative steel traversing platform.

During the North-West Europe campaign of 1944-45, German units at the receiving end of its firepower believed the British had secretly deployed an automatic 25-pound howitzer! Fitted

with a direct-fire telescope for use with armour-piercing rounds, the weapon also had some success in knocking out German armoured vehicles.

In peacetime, the 25-pounder was often seen in newsreels and TV news reports firing multi-gun salutes for events of national importance. It was eventually replaced in this ceremonial function by the Army's 105mm light gun.

Anne's new release depicts a gun and crew that would have participated in gun salutes during the 1970s. The fieldpiece and gunners are well proportioned and crisply painted in a traditional gloss finish.

Asset has faithfully recreated the ceremonial uniform of the HAC, a reserve regiment that was incorporated by royal charter in 1537 and has a claim to be

the oldest regiment in the British Army. The gun and its four-man crew would display superbly in a collector's cabinet and are priced at a very reasonable £80 fully painted, with the castings available for £50.

Chelsea Pensioners

The military theme continues with Asset's second new release in the form of a pair of Chelsea Pensioners. Dressed for ceremonial occasions in distinctive red frock coats, Chelsea Pensioners are residents of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, a retirement and nursing home for Army veterans located in Chelsea, London.

The uniform most commonly associated with Chelsea Pensioners on ceremonial occasions features an antiquated black tricorne hat. Anne's new models, however, are wearing

The crisply painted new Chelsea Pensioners produced by Asset Miniatures.



the less commonly seen black forage cap. Collectors can purchase the painted version of each of these two new figures for £9.50 or buy the castings for £4.50.

CONTACT

Asset Miniatures

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The striking new HAC 25-pounder and crew in ceremonial dress.

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Cameron (79th) Highlanders - Originally raised in 1793 from the clan Cameron in Lochaber, the regiment eventually recruited from across the highlands of Scotland. It had a distinguished history, serving in Egypt, Spain and finally the battle of Waterloo during the war against Napoleon. It later served in both the Crimean war and the Indian mutiny. In 1873, upon receiving new colours from queen Victoria, they were renamed the Queen's own Cameron Highlanders. They continued their illustrious service, fighting in the Anglo-Egyptian War in 1882, the war against the Mahdi in the Sudan in 1898 and in the second Boer war.



PA853 - Scottish Highlanders Moulds due out in late January 2024.

This set will contain three moulds that includes interchangeable heads, arms and accessories. Metal and casting accessories are sold separately. Starter kits are also available.

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King & Country Ltd.

Various New Releases

K&C's new versions of the biblical 'Three Wisemen' (ref. LOJ057) and their Camels' (ref. SP128).

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

In 'normal' years during the past two decades, I could always look forward to seeing Andy C. Neilson of King & Country Ltd. in person at least once or twice annually at US hobby events. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic put the kibosh on most travel and shows for a couple of years, but I finally was able to see Andy again at September's Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show as reported in issue 114.

Beforehand Andy had travelled from his home base in Hong Kong to make some summer rounds in Australia. After the Chicagoland show, he kept his passport handy in Europe as he travelled to Italy to meet up with dealer Stefano Allorini of Saimex and collectors at a hobby fair in Milan on 26 November. The very next day the K&C cofounder and creative director paid a visit to Sylvie Pichard and Marie Alix Gaffinel at their Solda' Telis shop in Paris. A few days later Andy appeared at a French collectors' event hosted Phylip Bultez of Figurines et Collections.

Elsewhere in this edition, George Phillips reports on how Andy re-joined Stefano at the 2 December London Toy Soldier & Historical Figures Show staged by Guideline Publications, parent company of *TSC&HF*. That event was followed by Andy's second-ever trip to Germany on K&C's behalf to join dealer Marcus Hei-Hasala of Hadriansvilla in Bblingen for another meet-and-greet gathering with collectors on 5 December.

Andy related, "K&C collectors always want to know about our future plans. I want to know what in particular they like, what they want to see and their ideas, suggestions and general comments."

"Although it's not the cheapest way to go about getting this information, it's simply the best way I know to forge a bond of support and friendship between collector, supplier and dealer." Andy said. "It's worth every euro, dollar and pound spent!" Despite all the time Andy spent away from his home and headquarters in recent months, the K&C beat went on with a steady stream of new 1/30-scale releases delving into everything from biblical, literary and other civilian subjects to World War II combatants and British ceremonial pageantry. All the efforts the K&C team puts into advance planning, creativity, coordinating production and shipping, as well as marketing, to keep things running like a well-oiled machine to maintain the company's success and make Andy's adventures possible never ceases to amaze me.



Scenic releases include the 'Desert Village Manger' (ref. SP132).

Life of Jesus

'Life of Jesus' series second generation sets of 'The Three Wisemen' (ref. LOJO57) dismounted and their 'Camels' (ref. SP128) are priced at \$179 and \$209 US, respectively. Both the biblical Magi and their ships of the desert have been given makeovers with new

sculpting and lively matt painting. Collectors can add atmosphere to Bible stories and all sorts of other Middle Eastern scenarios with the multi-level 'Desert Village Manger' (ref. SP132) for \$209. Those items were unveiled in time to commemorate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.

The Hong Kong 'Street Barber' (ref. HKY008).



Recreations of 1960s Hong Kong include the 'Mother & Child' (ref. HKY009).



'Miss Irene Adler' (ref. WOD072) and 'Mycroft Holmes' (ref. WOD071) figures inspired by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's writings.



'Boys Sitting Eating' (ref. HKY005) in 1960s Hong Kong.



Holmes and Hong Kong

Civilian subjects include two different figures that cost \$49 apiece and depict characters from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's novels and short stories about British detective Sherlock Holmes. They portray the literary character's elder brother 'Mycroft Holmes' (ref. WOD071), a senior government official wearing a top hat, and 'Miss Irene Adler' (ref. WOD072), an attractive former actress and opera singer with a special talent for outsmarting Sherlock.

The maker's new range based on 1960s Hong Kong has been expanded with \$99 sets of two 'Boys Sitting Eating' (ref. HKY005)

and 'The Street Barber' (ref. HKY008) giving a young fellow a standard 'short back and sides' haircut. They could be watched in a busy street scene by the \$69 'Mother & Child' (ref. HKY009) with her toddler strapped into a traditional Chinese-style cloth carrier called a 'mei tai' or 'bei dai'.

Wild West

Five different dismounted figures priced at \$49 apiece have been added to K&C's nineteenth-century Wild West 'Cattle Drive' series inspired by Texan history and life along both sides of the Rio Grande River. They include a deputy sheriff dubbed 'Buck' with a Colt Army Model 1860 revolver (ref. CDO28), a

colourful Mexican *vacquero* called 'Carlos' with a Spencer carbine (ref. CDO29), a nattily dressed gent named 'Diego' (ref. CDO30) whose bandoleer of ammunition and two revolvers imply that he might be a gunfighter, the *bandito* 'Antonio' (ref. CDO31) armed with a Winchester rifle and a dagger, and a cowpoke christened 'Clay' (ref. CDO32) who looks ready to join a cattle drive.

In response to requests from collectors, K&C has produced a choice of three riderless and standing horses painted in either 'Dun' (ref. CDO34), 'Chestnut' (ref. CDO35) or 'Black' (ref. CDO36) colours to add authentic atmosphere to town street or frontier camp displays.

Afrika Korps

This maker has had a long-running interest in recreating World War II's battles in the Western Desert which pitted the forces of the British Empire against Axis forces commanded by the 'Desert Fox', Erwin Rommel. Now a raft of new Afrika Korps German foot soldiers has been either issued recently or is still in the works to go with plans for a new North African Tiger tank.

The vanguard includes an 'AK Radio Operator' (ref. AK133), an 'AK MP40 Gunner' (ref. AK138) sculpt portraying a squad leader with captured British Army binoculars slung around his neck, an 'AK Field Policeman' (ref. AK139) holding his pistol and another 'Chained Dog' of the military police 'Checking Papers' (ref. AK140), an 'AK Saluting Rifleman' at attention (ref. AK141), an 'AK Ready for Action' man (ref. AK142) posed cocking his weapon, and an 'AK Rifleman' (ref. AK143) with a K98. They are modelled in either field caps or helmets,



Five different dismounted figures and three types of horses recreate the Old West.



K&C has unveiled seven new German Afrika Korps soldiers and has more in the hopper. The civilians shown in this display are the previously released 'Mrs. Ariadne Oliver' (ref. AE104) and 'Colonel Niven' (ref. AE108).

olive green tunics, khaki breeches and boots.

Kursk Tigers

The Battle of Kursk fought between Germans and the Soviet Red Army in south-western Russia from 5 July to 23 August 1943 is the setting for two new German tanks selling for \$499 apiece. They

are listed as 'Pzkwf Kursk Tiger No. 32' (ref. WS396SE) and 'Pzkwf Kursk Tiger No. 33' (ref. WS397(SE) due to their turret numberings. They are the latest landmarks in K&C's transition from armour models made primarily of polystone to metal. Features include all-metal hulls, turrets and

88mm main guns along with moving flexible metal tracks and rolling wheels with a full suspension. Four hatches open and variants of two crew figures are included with each Tiger. They are painted in variants of a yellowish tan and olive-green camouflage scheme. These impressive tanks can be supported by

Each of K&C's two different Kursk Tigers are all-metal models and come with a pair of crew figures.



'Mounted Officer of The Blues and Royals' (ref. CE096).



K&C's half-dozen releases depicting German Waffen SS *Panzergranadiere* in distinctive camouflage smocks that I reviewed last time in issue 114.

The Battle of Kursk was triggered by Operation Citadel, Germany's last major offensive along the Eastern Front. History's largest tank battle ultimately resulted in a Soviet victory. Experts debate whether Kursk or the Battle of Stalingrad that climaxed a few months earlier was the key turning point in the European Theatre that turned the tide against Nazi Germany.

Ceremonial Collectables

Collectors like me who are drawn to British ceremonial splendour can recruit a striking 'Mounted Officer of The Blues and Royals' (ref. CE096) with his sabre drawn for \$129.

In addition, a hand-painted polystone scenic item priced at \$299 is a compelling model of the 'Edinburgh Castle Gateway' (ref. SP125SE) flanked by statues of Scottish King Robert the Bruce and Sir William Wallace. Hobbyists who must consider display space constraints like me are advised that it measures 13.6in long and 9.9in high with a depth 2.35in, so it would fit quite nicely on the right shelf.



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Statues inspired by Scotland's history enhance K&C's recreation of the 'Edinburgh Castle Gateway' (ref. SP125SE).

Loggerheads Military Studio

RAF Pipe Band and Napoleonic Lancers

Reviewed by George Phillips

Louise Handley of Loggerheads Military Studio has been busy expanding the range of connoisseur-style painted collectables she offers hobbyists in the UK and beyond. Among the new releases that she launched at the London Toy Soldier & Historical Figures Show on Sunday, 2 December, was a sixteen-figure set depicting the Royal Air Force (RAF) Pipes and Drums in 54mm metal (ref. LMS69).

Distinctive Tartan

RAF Pipes and Drums bands have performed at high-profile events around the world including the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Scotland and international tattoos in Basel, Switzerland; Berlin, Germany; Melbourne and Sydney, Australia; Wellington, New Zealand; Ystad, Sweden; and Norfolk, Virginia, United States of America.

Up until 2004, the five bands of the RAF Pipes and Drums had different tartans

representing their individual stations. For the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo of 2004, the RAF bandsmen were issued for the first time with their own distinctive RAF tartan woven in light and dark blues with red and white stripes.

The RAF's 100th anniversary celebration in 2018 saw its pipers and drummers marching the standards and personnel down the Mall and at Buckingham Palace in

London. The RAF Pipes and Drums have also performed for King Charles III at Balmoral Castle in Scotland.

The new set from Loggerheads is based on original sculpts by veteran artist David Scheinmann. The paintwork Louise has applied to the metal castings is simply stunning. The brushwork that details the RAF tartan, uniform brocade, brass buttons and regimental motifs on the drums is top notch.

The set includes a drum major, a bass drummer, four side drummers and ten pipers. They would display quite handsomely in any collector's glass-fronted cabinet.

This set is offered for sale at £480, which translates to just £30 per musician. It seems like reasonable pricing for museum-grade sculpting and painting.

Red Lancers

Louise was also offering for sale two new mounted

The highly detailed
RAF Pipes and Drums
by Loggerheads.



figures depicting French Emperor Napoleon I's 2nd Regiment of Light Cavalry Lancers of the Imperial Guard, also known as the Red Lancers. The regiment was formed in 1810 after the Kingdom of Holland was annexed by France. They fought for Napoleon during his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo in Belgium on 18 June 1815.

These figures are based on castings originally produced by Graham Mollard when he traded as GNM Miniatures. Louise's paintwork artfully recreates the regiment's distinctively garish uniform. These new Red Lancers are priced at £100 each.

Red Lancers based on classic
Graham Mollard sculpts.



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Kronprinz Toy Soldiers

Various New Releases

Reviewed by George Phillips

Regular readers of this magazine will have seen some of my past reviews of the excellent medieval, Napoleonic and Wild West-themed collectables produced by Kronprinz Toy Soldiers of Spain. So, I'm pleased in this issue to have opportunity write about some of the company's recent releases that range from depicting political and military figures from 1930s and 1940s Nazi Germany to an Ancient Macedonian cavalry officer.



'Wehrmacht Soldier 1943' (ref. WW 233)

German Figures

Proprietor and sculptor Emilio Arrendondo has expanded his World War II period German range with six fine releases.

First up is a marching Wehrmacht soldier in a mid-war German infantry uniform (ref. WW 233). The soldier carries a Mauser K98 rifle slung over his right shoulder and his sleeves are rolled up, suggesting warmer weather. In my imagination, this rifleman is part of the summer 1943 campaign against Josip Broz Tito's partisans in Yugoslavia. Naturalistic posing and good

painted details are hallmarks of the Kronprinz catalogue and this €34 figure has both of those attributes.

A marching private armed with a MP40 machine pistol (ref. WW 234) also costs €34. Like the previous figure, this model is well proportioned with good animation. I like the detail of the prominent magazine pouches for his MP40. This type of 9mm weapon employed a 32-round stick magazine and had a rate of fire of some 500 rounds per minute, so a good supply of ammo was essential for combat.

Moving from the



'Wehrmacht Soldier 1943' (ref. WW 234).

Wehrmacht to the feared *Schutzstaffel* or SS, the next figure depicts an SS officer in parade uniform. Following the so-called 'Night of the Long Knives' in 1934 until the collapse of the Third Reich in 1945, the SS was the foremost agency of security, mass surveillance, and state terrorism within Germany and German-occupied Europe. It would go on to form infamous military units – the Waffen SS – that fought alongside regular Wehrmacht units. The Kronprinz SS officer is blonde-haired and crisply painted in the distinctive black uniform of the unit that was manufactured by Hugo Boss AG.

Take away the white gloves and this figure is a dead ringer for the character of SS Major von Happen, who was so memorably played by Derren Nesbitt in the blockbuster movie *Where Eagles Dare* (1968). This well-crafted item retails for €33.

Political Figures

Kronprinz's new Nazis include a 'Regional Party Leader' (ref. WW 236). This figure portrays a paid-up senior member of the *Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei* or Nazi party that was active in Germany from 1920 to 1945. The party emerged from the extremist German nationalist Freikorps paramilitary



'SS Officer' (ref. WW 355).



'Regional Nazi Party Leader' (ref. WW 236)

culture that fought against communism in post-World War I Germany. Its goal was to draw workers away from communism and into nationalism. Initially, Nazi political strategy focused on anti-big business, anti-bourgeois and anti-capitalist rhetoric. This was later downplayed to gain the support of business leaders. By the 1930s, the Nazi Party's main focus shifted to antisemitic and anti-Marxist themes.



**'Female
Hitlerjugend
Saluting 2'**
(ref. WW 237).



SA Officer
(ref. WW 238).

The figure is modelled in the distinctive light brown paramilitary uniform and cap of the movement. This is a mature character reflecting how many senior party leaders were veterans of the Great War. Emilio's sculpting and brushwork imbue this figure with a distinctly authoritative air.

I know figures representing

the Nazis are not every collector's cup of tea, but they do serve to highlight the ideological realities of this period in German history and, if nothing else, offer a reminder of the dangers of political extremism. This figure is priced at €33. When you consider that the Nazis held sway over Germany for a quarter of

a century, it's unsurprising that its ideology filtered down into the country's youth movements. The *Hitlerjugend* or Hitler Youth had its origins in 1922 and went on to appropriate the role of the country's scouting movements. In time, its members – both male and female – became indoctrinated with the racism

and Aryan supremacism associated with the party's ideology and came to believe they were the future of the Thousand Year Reich. The next new release depicts a young female member of the party with her arm raised in a typical Nazi salute. Oh, the folly of youth. This figure retails for €33.

The last new political figure is a saluting officer of the *Sturmabteilung* (SA), the original paramilitary wing of the Nazi Party whose brown-shirted stormtroopers crushed all political opposition and helped Adolf Hitler to seize power in 1933. Emilio has created in miniature a smartly dressed fanatic, who appears to be mouthing the words 'Heil Hitler!' as he extends his right arm. This 1/30-scale depiction of pre-war Germany history is also priced at €33.

Ancient Horseman

The final new release dials the historical clock back 24 centuries to the conquests of Alexander the Great. Kronprinz has expanded its Ancients range with the addition of an officer of the Companions or Hetairai cavalry, the elite guard of the Macedonian king. Detailed, vibrantly painted and mounted on realistic-looking flocked base, this handsome 'Hetairai Cavalry Officer' (ref. CW 021) is priced at €85.



**'Hetairai Cavalry
Officer' (ref. CW 021).**

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Bengal Lancers on campaign in Sudan.



Alexanders Toy Soldiers

Nile Wars British Forces

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

The British Empire's entanglements in Egypt and its Sudan province stemmed from its vital interest in safeguarding the Suez Canal route to India and beyond after it was constructed by an Anglo-French consortium in cooperation with the Ottoman governor of Egypt and opened in 1869. The arrangement changed when Egypt's government reached the brink of bankruptcy, the British bought its interest in the canal, and it became the majority owner.

Aiming to curtail foreign influence, Egyptian nationalist and army officer Ahmed 'Urabi seized power in 1882. The British government reacted by launching an invasion that led to a decisive victory over Egyptian forces in the Battle of Tel-El Kebir on 13 September. Now that Britain effectively controlled Egypt, it faced a myriad of new challenges, including the Islamic Mahdi's uprising in Sudan and the death of Major General Charles Gordon at besieged Khartoum on 26 January 1885 two days before a relief force arrived. Gordon was avenged during the Anglo-Egyptian conquest of Sudan when an army commanded by Major General Horatio Herbert Kitchener crushed the Mahdist army near its capital city Omdurman on 2 September 1898.

All those dramatic events have inspired miniature legions of British, Egyptian and Sudanese troops, Mahdist Dervishes, camels, dhows and gunboats, and a whole lot more through the years. In fact, the Nile Wars is one of my personal favourite subjects when it comes to history and collecting. Therefore, I was very glad to learn details of pertinent new 54mm groups being issued by Alexanders Toy Soldiers (ATS).

They include Bengal Lancers priced at £46.50 apiece with the nicely varied poses including a British officer and Indian Army figures of a trumpeter, sergeant and four different troopers (refs. BENGAL01-07). Also, they can be purchased as a complete set for £327.50 from proprietor and skilled craftsman Nikola Biberovic. He has recreated the khaki-clad British Rifle Brigade with distinctive black belts. They include a £46.50 mounted

officer and figures on foot sold singly for £17.50 that depict two different officers, a sergeant, a bugler, and other ranks standing or kneeling firing, loading and at the ready (refs. SUDAN22-38). Seventeen of those figures compose a group (SUDAN21) that costs £344.

Perhaps the most distinctive of all are the UK maker's new British Naval Brigade contingent modelled in either blue uniforms with white caps or white uniforms with sennet hats (refs. NAVBO1-29). They cost £18.50 apiece except for a two-man 'Semaphore Team', two 'Officers with Map' and a five-figure stretcher party group that range from £38 to £95.



Nile Wars British Rifle Brigade figures by ATS.

Nik Biberovic has modelled the British Naval Brigade in both blue and white dress.



Little Legion Toy Soldiers

Various New Releases

Reviewed by George Phillips

Welshman Mike Norris of Little Legion Toy Soldiers is a regular trader at the London Toy Soldier & Historical Figures Show, and I was delighted to see his tables stacked with attractive 54mm collectables at the Sunday, 2 December event.

Mike had produced a couple of new sets to debut, which gave me the opportunity to take a close-up look and for photographer Andy Whittaker to capture some pictures for this review. Little Legion produces traditional-style toy soldiers in gloss paint and the brushwork on the new sets is predictably crisp.



A new Zulu War set portrays soldiers of the 24th Foot unloading a supply wagon (ref. ZEQ/20).

Zulu War Wagon

First up is a really nice vignette based on the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879 that depicts soldiers of the British Army's 24th Regiment of Foot unloading a supply wagon (ref. ZEQ/20). The war's battles loom large in the imaginations of toy soldier collectors, and models that depict the supply chain and logistical operations that supported the British forces who invaded the Zulu Kingdom are few and far between, so I was delighted to

lay eyes on this new set. This is a substantial collectable that includes two horses hitched to a robust-looking supply wagon, two soldiers in shirtsleeves unloading supplies, a corporal wearing his scarlet tunic and white pith helmet overseeing the proceedings, and a member of the Commissariat and Transport Department checking items off his list. In addition, the set includes four large sacks, four barrels and three large ammunition

boxes. This is a lot of great stuff that was priced at the show at just £139, which to my mind is terrific value for money.

Boer Artillery

Mike also unveiled a Boer 75mm field gun with a four-man crew (ref. BOER/9) based on the Second Anglo-Boer War fought from 1899-1902. Greatly prized by Boer artillerymen for its reliability, this type of Krupp gun could hurl a 9.5lb explosive shell

almost three miles and it was deployed to deadly effect against British forces.

The set includes an officer with binoculars, a crouching gunner priming a shell, an artilleryman operating the breech of the weapon, a Boer standing by with his rifle and an ammunition box. This new release is priced at £94.

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Boers man a Krupp 75mm gun (ref. BOER/9).

W. Britain Model Figures

Various New Releases

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

Everything seems to ebb and flow in life, but after some relatively lean years during the brand's 130-year history today's W. Britain Model Figures has quickened the drumbeat with a steady pace of new 1/30-scale metal figures, artillery, vehicles, accessories and scenery. For instance, this time I have 22 factory-fresh releases for review that are consistently painstakingly researched, skillfully sculpted and look lifelike, yet this is just the tip of the iceberg compared to everything else President and Creative Director Kenneth A. Osen and his terrific team have been up to lately.

Clash of Empires

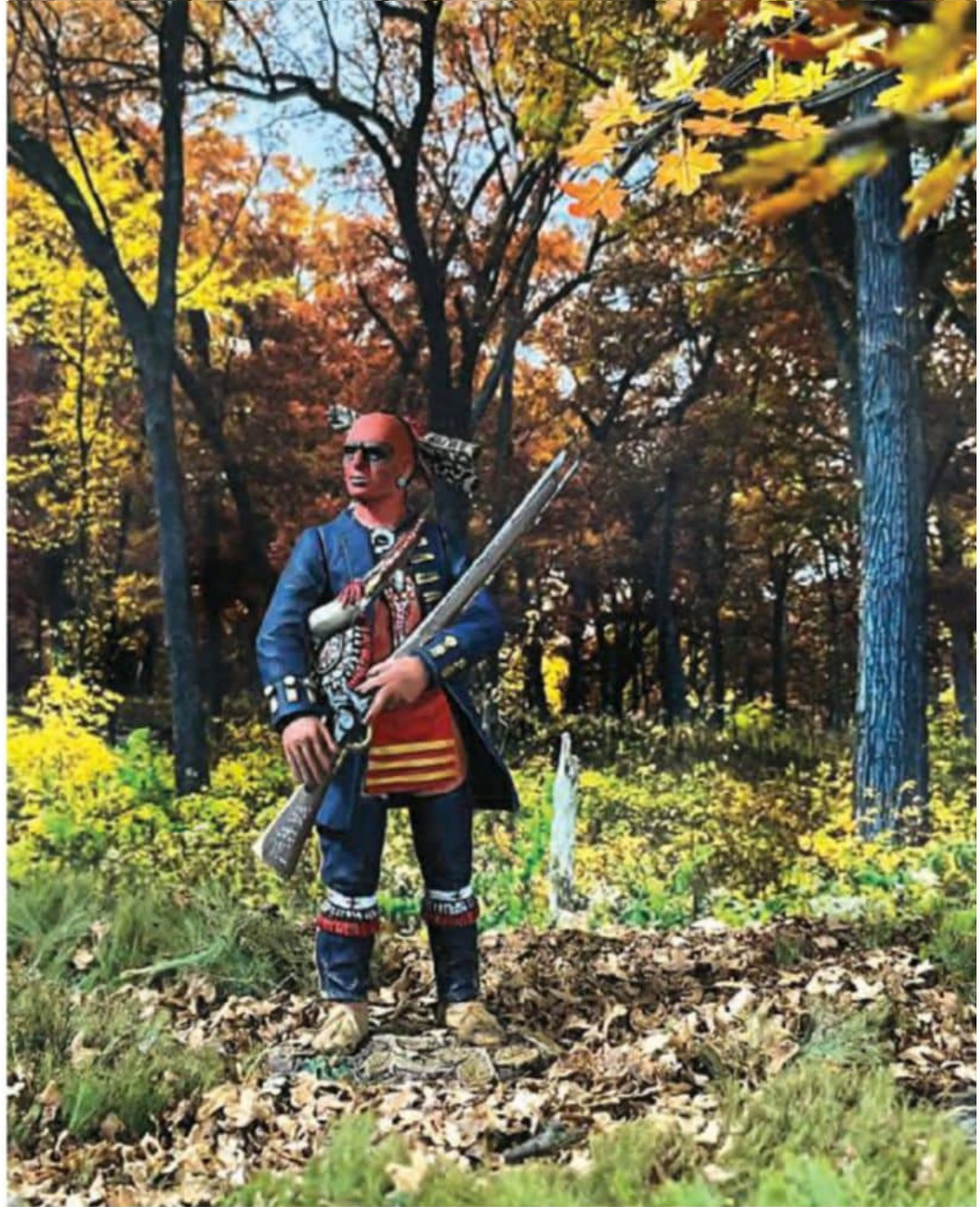
The 'Clash of Empires' collection features faithfully modelled figures of Native Americans, colonists and soldiers involved in events along the frontiers of North America from 1750-98. It is one of my personal favourite ranges because many of the figures reflect history made in my own backyard in Upstate New York, and all the designs stem from exhaustive research, 'Soldier Study Series' art and panoramic paintings done by renowned historian and artist Don Troiani. In fact, W. Britain groups this

Colonial America range under the 'Don Troiani's Art of War' banner and it serves as a sales agent for his prints, artist proofs and more. This enables hobbyists to enjoy one-stop shopping to display their authentic figures together with the highly accurate historical artwork they were based on. The latest evocative Indians include 'The New Trade Coat: Native Warrior with European Trade Coat' (ref. 16170), 'Fresh Tracks: Native Warrior Checking Trail' (ref. 16171), 'Along the Deer Trail: Native Warrior Walking' (ref.

161720), an Iroquois 'Oneida Warrior, 1777' (ref. 16173) allied to the Patriots during the American Revolution's Battle of Oriskany, and a 'Shawnee Indian Warrior, 1750-80' (ref. 16174).

European soldiers include a marching figure titled 'Grenadier Brunswick Regiment, von Riedesel, 1777' (ref. 16176). It is based on a German mercenary unit that was compelled to surrender along with the rest of British General John Burgoyne's

army following the two Battles of Saratoga in 1777. A 'French Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment Private Standing Firing, 1781' (ref. 16175) represents a regiment of Germans in French service who fought with distinction alongside the Continental Army against British forces in 1780's decisive Siege of Yorktown, Virginia. The Native Americans retail for \$52 US apiece and each soldier costs \$49.

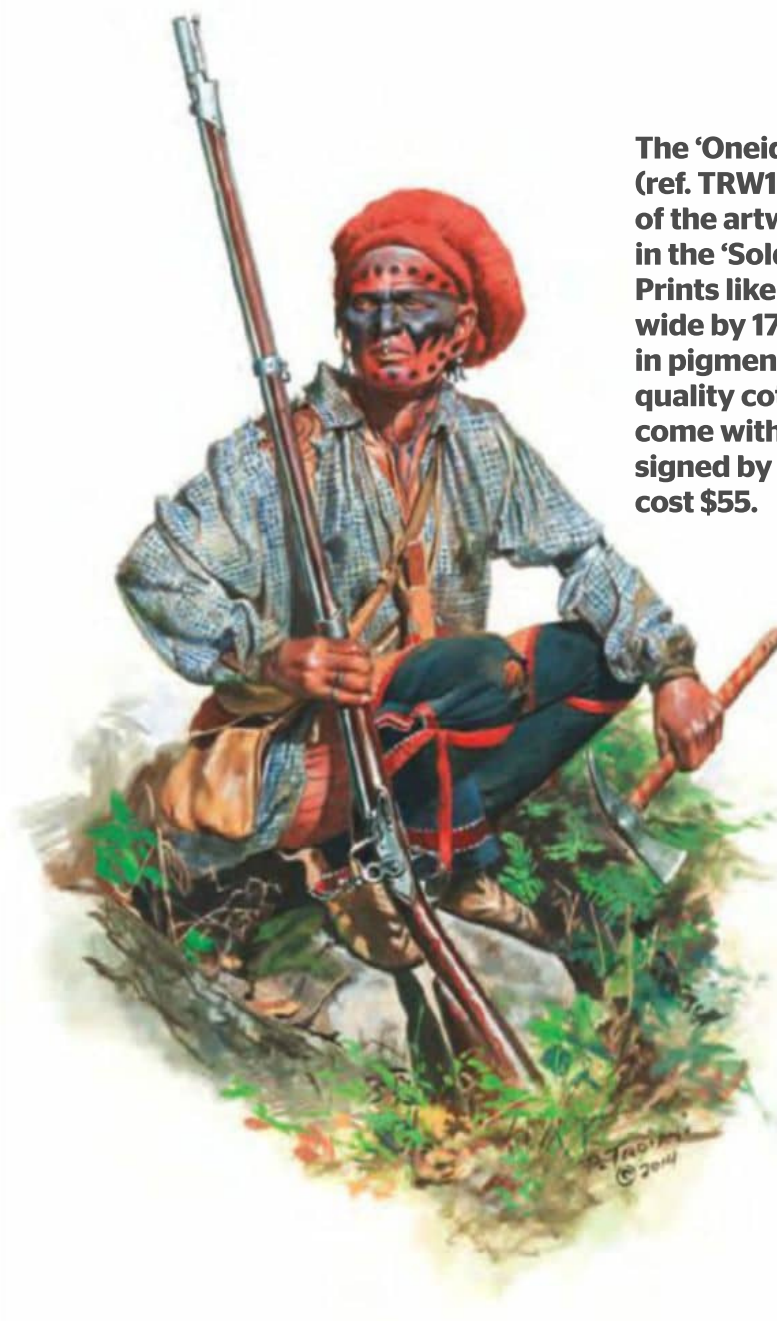


'Fresh Tracks: Native Warrior Checking Trail' (ref. 16171).



'Along the Deer Trail: Native Warrior Walking' (ref. 16172).

'Oneida Warrior, 1777' (ref. 16173).



The 'Oneida Warrior, 1777' (ref. TRW195) is an example of the artwork by Don Troiani in the 'Soldier Study Series'. Prints like this measure 11in wide by 17in high, are printed in pigment inks on high-quality cotton rag paper, come with a certificate signed by the artist and cost \$55.

Village Green

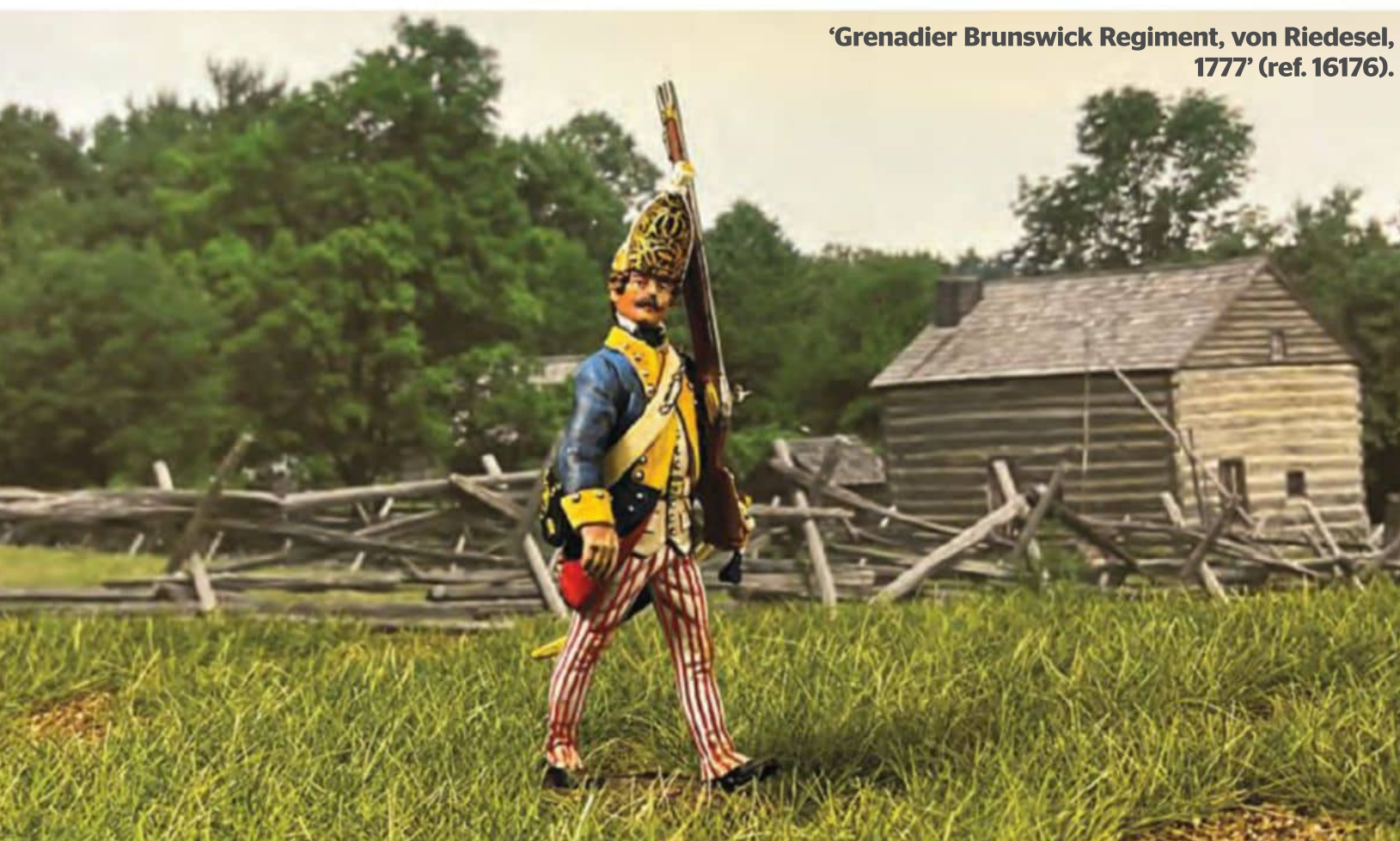
Three more female figures have been added to the fledging 'Village Green' civilian series that can stand alone or complement W. Britain's nineteenth-century soldiers recreating everything from the Napoleonic Wars to the American Civil War.

A barnyard scene complete with poultry and accessories is recreated by a set titled 'Here, Chick, Chick, Chick: Amy Feeding Chickens, with Chicken Shelters, 1855-68'



'Shawnee Indian Warrior, 1750-80' (ref. 16174).

(ref. 35037). On a related note, everything from a Woodland Indian village scene to a pioneer farm vignette could be enhanced with the new '18th-19th Century Autumn Corn' (ref. 53018) set. Only some beans, squash and pumpkins remain among the →

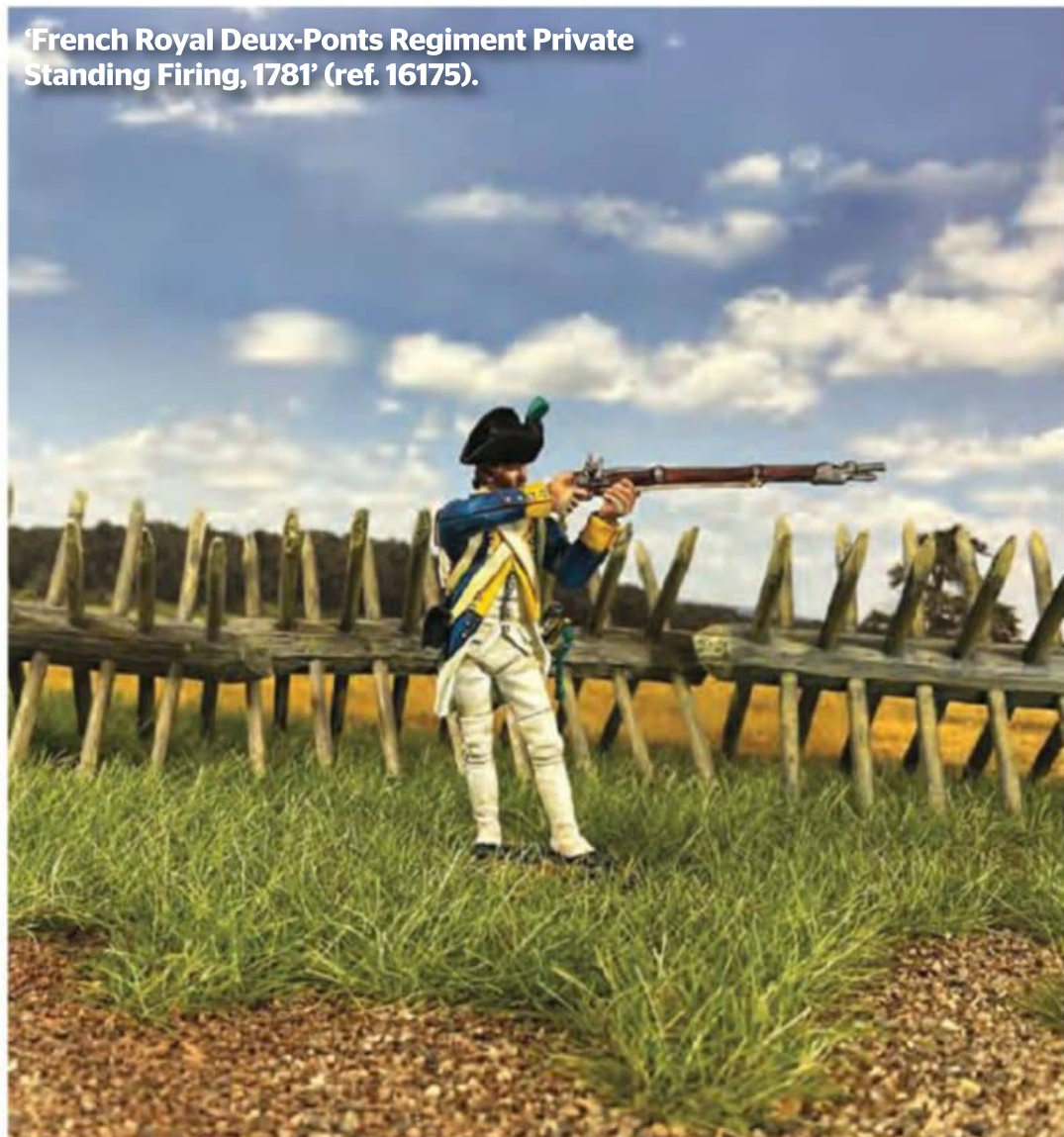


'Grenadier Brunswick Regiment, von Riedesel, 1777' (ref. 16176).



Don Troiani 'Soldier Study Series' artwork includes a Brunswick grenadier (ref. TRW101).

'French Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment Private Standing Firing, 1781' (ref. 16175).



'Here, Chick, Chick, Chick, with Chicken Shelters, 1855-68' (ref. 35037).

→ brown and brittle cornstalks at this late stage of the fall harvest. Either of those two sets cost \$85. Fetching female figures include 'Ruth: Young Woman in Day Dress with Parasol, 1855-68' (ref. 35040). Fashion-minded collectors might note how the width of her circa 1860s hoop skirt is emphasised by a

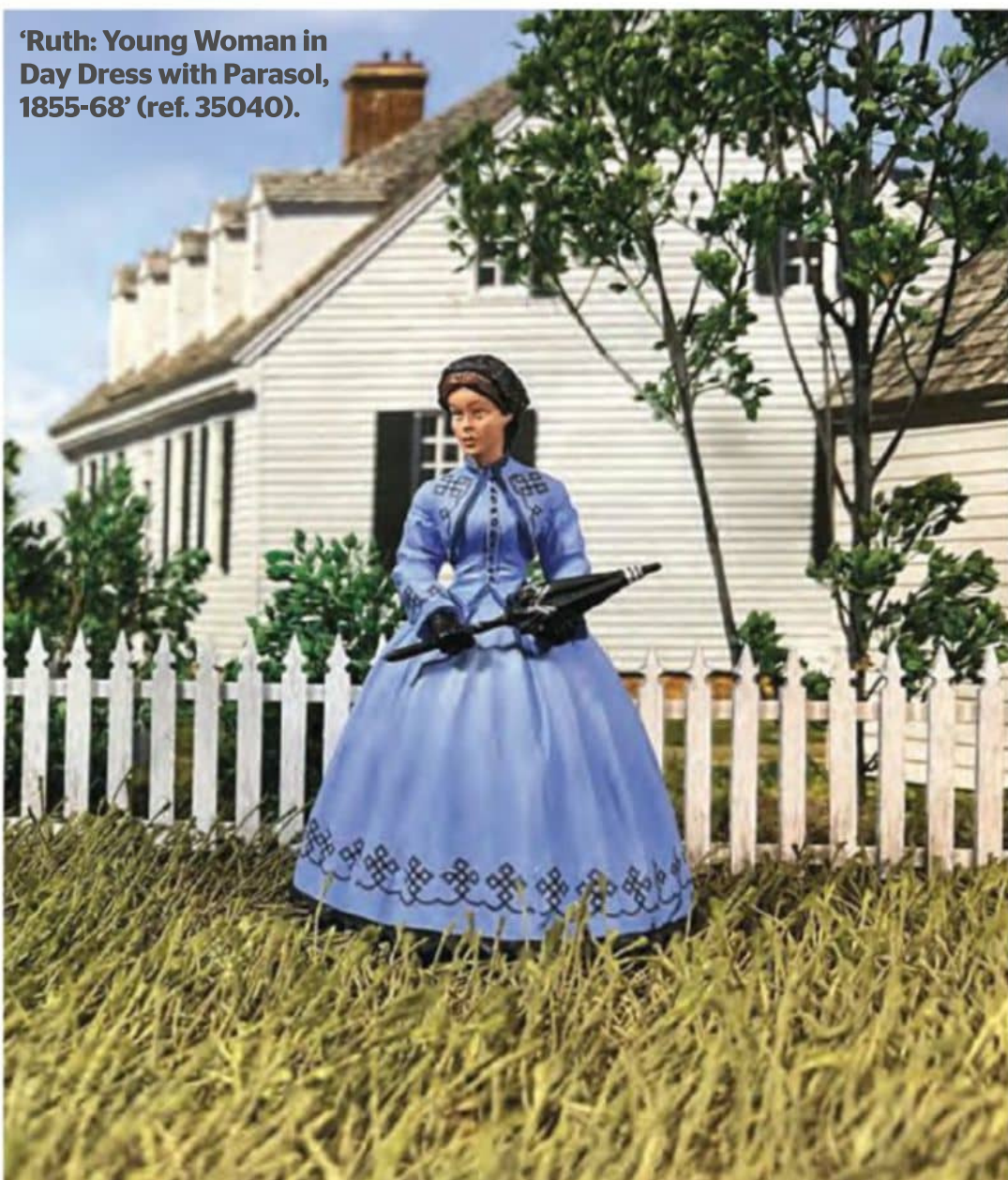
geometric design done in black soutache braid along the hemline and around her shoulders to draw the eye and highlight her petite waistline. She wears leather gloves and holds a parasol to shade her comely face from the sun.

On a related period note, the American Civil War era is represented by a newly

'18th-19th Century Autumn Corn' (ref. 53018).



'Ruth: Young Woman in Day Dress with Parasol, 1855-68' (ref. 35040).



'Mrs. Bennet Out for a Stroll' (ref. 35032).



'M1841 6 Pound Bronze Field Gun' (ref. 31488).

released 'M1841 6 Pound Bronze Field Gun' (ref. 31488) available for \$48. Both Union and Confederate forces used this type of gun to fire either round shot, canister shot, or spherical case shot to deadly

effect, however, artillerymen had to guard against the bronze overheating and warping.

A past series inspired by Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice* and W. Britain

Vice President Ericka Osen's historical expertise is echoed by a new figure of 'Mrs. Bennet Out for a Stroll' (ref. 35032). The small-minded, vulgar and nervous character injects comic relief into the narrative as she strives to get her daughters married. The figure is modelled in a high empire waistline dress and a paisley shawl while holding a delicately beaded reticule handbag. Both 'Mrs. Bennet' and 'Ruth' cost \$48.

World War II Foes

The legions of collectors intrigued by recreating World War II history in miniature will be spoiled for choice by ten new releases for reinforcing their opposing German and US forces.

The most exciting item is titled '*Kaiserbaracke* Crossroads: Type 166 *Schwimmwagen*, 1st SS, Ardennes 1944-45' (ref. 25203). According to the 'trading card'

that comes in the box, this set recreates a scene captured by a propaganda film crew as the failed German offensive called *Unternehmen Wacht am Rhein* (Operation Watch on the Rhine) was being launched and vehicles were passing through the key crossroads between St Vith and Maledy as the wintry Battle of the Bulge erupted. The set includes an apropos signpost and a detailed model of a *Schwimmwagen* in tri-colour camouflage with its seated driver conferring over a map with two standing officers. They represent an infamous reconnaissance unit commanded by *Sturmabführer* (Major) Gustav Knittel from the 1st SS Panzer Division *Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler*. This set's \$288 price seems reasonable considering all its elements. New infantrymen sold singly include the 'Panzerknaker: German Grenadier Waiting



'Kaiserbaracke Crossroads: Type 166 Schwimmwagen, 1st SS, Ardennes 1944-45' (ref. 25203).



'Panzerknaker: German Grenadier Waiting with Panzerfaust, 1944-45' (ref. 25157).



'German Waffen SS Grenadier Standing with Helmet Off, 1941-45' (ref. 25266).



'German Waffen SS in Kharkov Parka Getting Up to Move, 1942-45' (ref. 25262).



'German Waffen SS Grenadier Directing Movement, 1941-45' (ref. 25267).



'German Grenadier Standing with StG 44, Winter 1944-45' (ref. 25275).



'German Grenadier Kneeling with Panzerfaust in Zeltbahn and Greatcoat, Winter 1944-45' (ref. 25276).

→ with *Panzerfaust*, 1944-45' (ref. 25157) positioned on a pile of bricks and other urban warfare rubble. He is joined by the 'German Waffen SS Grenadier Standing with Helmet Off, 1941-45' (ref. 25266), 'German Waffen in Kharkov Parka Getting Up to Move, 1942-45' (ref. 25262), 'German Waffen SS Grenadier Directing Movement, 1941-45' (ref. 25267), 'German Grenadier Standing with StG 44, Winter 1944-45' (ref.

25275), 'German Grenadier Kneeling with *Panzerfaust* in *Zeltbahn* and Greatcoat, Winter 1944-45' (ref. 25276), and 'German Grenadier Kneeling Firing MP40 in *Zeltbahn* and Greatcoat, Winter 1944-45' (ref. 25277).

The Allies are being reinforced by a standing 'US Infantry NCO with Thompson, 1943-45' (ref. 25273) and 'Slogging Along: Two US Infantrymen Marching, 1943-45' (ref. 25272). The latter two



'US Infantry NCO with Thompson, 1943-45' (ref. 25273).



'German Grenadier Kneeling Firing MP40 in Zeltbahn and Greatcoat, Winter 1944-45' (ref. 25277).



Slogging Along: Two US Infantrymen Marching, 1943-45' (ref. 25272).

figure set costs \$96. The rest of these precisely detailed World War II Americans and German troops are sold singly at prices ranging between \$48 and \$64.

On top of all these new releases, W. Britain just launched the new Campaign Miniatures series of resin model kits based on its metal figures and vehicles as reported elsewhere in this edition.

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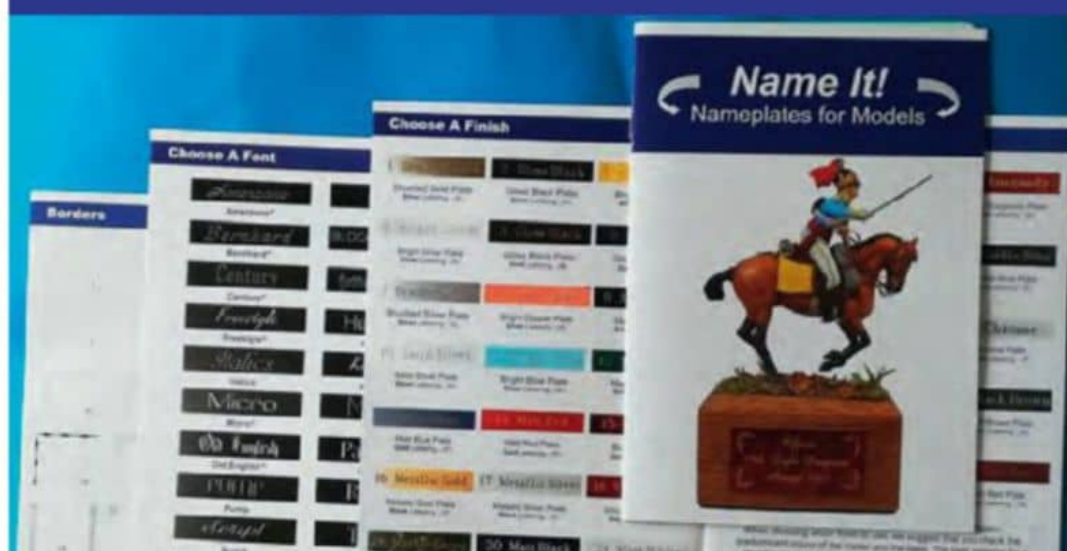
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The dramatic 'Frozen Path' CSD shows German soldiers meeting up during a lull in desperate winter combat in bone-chilling conditions against the Soviet Red Army.

Soldiers' Frozen Path On the Eastern Front

Enrique Carrasco researches, builds and paints an Eastern Front combined scales diorama to enhance realism.

Text and Photos: Enrique Carrasco

The German-Soviet conflict (1941-45) profoundly marked the history of Europe and the world during the twentieth century. Without their clash of arms, the course and outcome of World War II might have been quite different. Combat along Eastern Front pitted millions of combatants against each other in a struggle characterised by harsh climatic and environmental conditions that are hard to imagine.

Nazi Germany launched Operation Barbarossa, its invasion of Communist Russia, on 22 June 1941. The fighting encompassed the Continuation War (24 June 1941-19 September 1944), also known as the Second Soviet-Finnish War, with Finland allied to Germany. Key turning points included German forces suffering major losses during the Battle of Stalingrad in the autumn and winter of 1942-43, where they were ultimately compelled to surrender. The Red Army

The German machine gun team pulling a sled kit is extraordinarily detailed. (Jeff Shiu Miniatures)



launched a relentless counteroffensive in the autumn of 1943 that culminated in the Fall of Berlin and helped spur Germany's surrender to the Allies on 8 May 1945, ending World War II in Europe.



It would be easy to assemble the sled team figures due to their large size.



The pair of Germans and their gear are glued together except for arms being saved to modify later.



The German with the bandaged eye undergoes arm surgery to achieve the pose desired.



The Tamiya putty is very flexible, and it can be smoothed with a brush dipped in water while modifying things.

Combined Scales

I decided to embark on modelling a 'Frozen Path' combined scales diorama (CSD) illustrating a lull during wintertime warfare on the Eastern Front. The scene shows an exhausted German soldier with an MG42 machine gun who has been crippled by the intense cold and has sat down on a rusty old fuel drum along a frozen pathway waiting in desperate hope of making contact with some comrades. He has gotten lucky because he is being greeted by two approaching Germans, including a wounded man. They are dragging a sled bearing a MG34 machine gun, ammunition and supplies.

This diorama uses techniques explained in my book *Combining Scales for Realistic Dioramas* (2022) published by Kalmbach Media. To achieve drama, perspective and a high degree of detail, I used resin model figures made in two different scales. The larger figure sitting on the fuel drum was created by conjoining a 1/10th-scale (180mm) bust of a German infantryman serving on the Russian Front (ref. YM1825) by Young Miniatures (www.young-miniatures.com) with half the body of an old toy figure made in a similar size. I recruited smaller 1/16th-scale (120mm) figures for the other

two soldiers from the 'WWII German MG Machine Gun Team w/Sledge Eastern Front 1943' (ref. JS120082) kit by Jeff Shiu Miniatures (www.jeffshiu.lsft.com).

Sled Team Figures

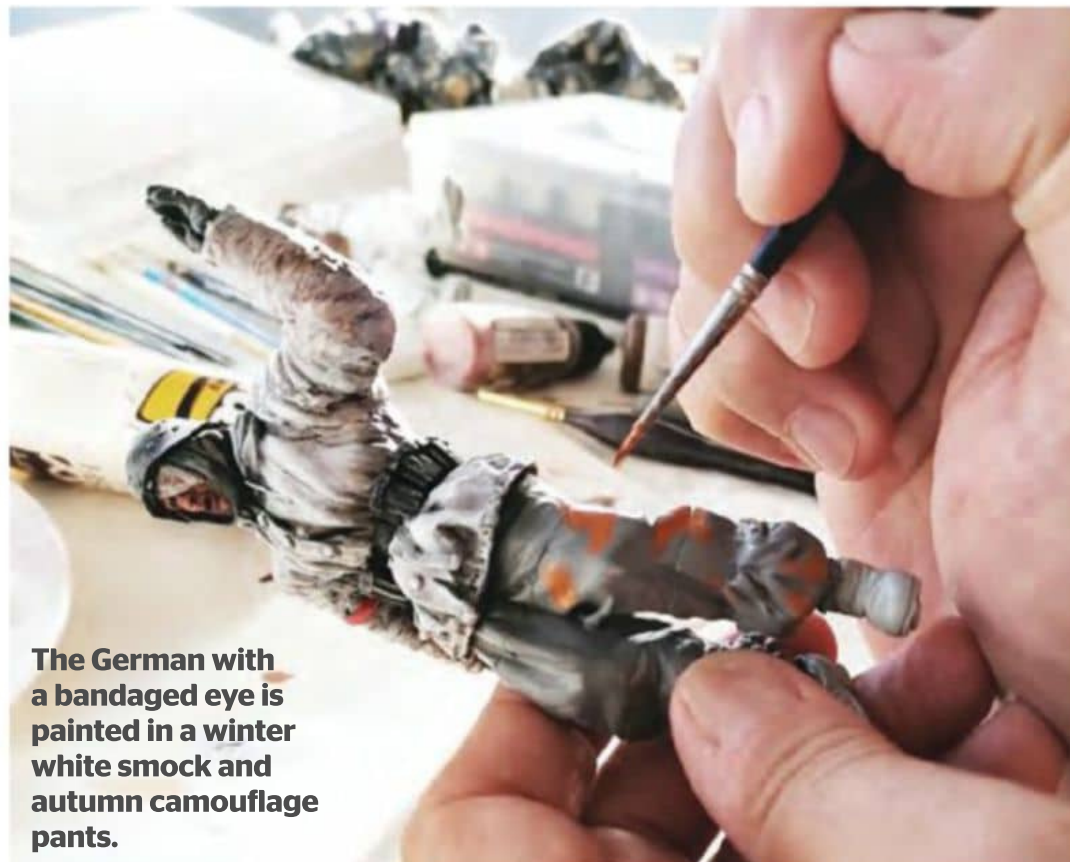
Thanks to the large size of the sled team figures and the definition of their details, assembling the kit was simple. I used a blade to remove some of the resin before putting things together with La Gotita fast-drying glue. The fact that the pieces are moulded in a neutral grey colour helps a lot, especially for the ensuing painting process.

Next, I glued gear such as canteens and gas mask cases to the figures. I usually prefer to glue everything before painting with an adhesive that does not leave any excess residue. I completed assembling the figures except for leaving some parts to attach toward the end of the project, such as one arm on each soldier to change their postures to achieve the





The 1/16-scale soldier posed looking to his right is painted to recreate winter white camouflage dress.



The German with a bandaged eye is painted in a winter white smock and autumn camouflage pants.



A Tamiya Weathering Master kit tool is used add realistic wear and tear on clothes.



An example of a Waffen SS reversible smock providing either winter white camouflage or the autumn Eichenlaubmuster (Oak Leaf A) pattern. (Wikipedia Commons)

objective that I visualised for this vignette.

It was challenging to change the left arm of the soldier with the bandage over his eye to make it look like he is saluting. On my first try, the arm seemed too long. The second attempt turned out better after I cut the arm into two parts and applied Tamiya Epoxy Putty. It works well for correcting

and extending limbs on various kinds of figures. A

modelling tool similar to a dental periodontal probe was used to make clothing creases in the putty.

Once the Tamiya putty's two components are mixed, it is very flexible, and it can be smoothed with a brush dipped in water while modifying things.

Painting the Troops

Painting 1/16-scale figures is always a pleasure. Although the task might be a bit more tiring because it involves large surfaces, it is enjoyable to be able to focus on the details better. I painted the sled duo in base tones before adding highlights and shadows using acrylics from the Vallejo Model Color range.

The soldier posed looking to his right was painted in winter camouflage clothing using White (70.951) paint. His gloves and scarf were done in grey/green with German Uniform (70.920). The upper straps, boots and canteen were painted using Flat Brown (70.984). His belt and pistol holster were coloured Black (70.950). The binoculars case was painted using Hull Red (70.985). Dark Grey (70.994) was applied to the man's helmet. I enlisted Basic Skin Tone (70.815) to do base painting of his face. His companion with the bandaged eye was done in a similar paint scheme except for the trousers. I decided to paint those in a German autumn camouflage pattern consisting of a



Dirt and soot effects are added to added to the wounded German's white camouflage smock.



The soldiers' wintry dress makes it relatively easy to paint white and grey tones.

medium grey background done using Neutral Grey (70.992) then I added Orange Brown (70.981) spots and touches of the acrylic Black.

Online research into German camouflage variants was necessary to check the distribution of colour tones for the sake of authenticity. For example, my larger 1/10th-scale seated soldier's jacket recreates the *Eichenlaubmuster* (Oak Leaf A) pattern of a Waffen SS reversible smock suitable for either autumn or winter use.

Recreating wear and tear on white clothes with shading requires slow and careful work. I used a makeup-like Tamiya Weathering Master 'B Set - Snow, Soot, Rust' (87080) kit with an applicator brush to highlight prominent wrinkles on the German glancing to his left.

I decided to add more wear and tear to the wounded soldier's clothing, including adding soot or smoke from having been near a campfire or an explosion. This effect was accomplished using the Carbon Black (Smoke Black) (73.116) from the Vallejo Pigments range for models and miniatures. The 1/16-scale duo's winter dress made it relatively easy to work with tones of the Vallejo White mixed with Light Grey (70.990).



The resin sled is modelled as carrying a machine gun, ammo, blankets and supplies.



Painting the facial features, clothing and gear injects realism into the wounded German.

Detailing included painting some ammunition Black (70.950) and the MG34 ammunition box Leather Brown (70.871) along with brushstrokes of Buff (70.976) to imitate weathering. The scarlet artillery bands on their arms were painted using Red (70.926). I mixed some of the grey/green German Uniform (70.920) paint with the White on the men's scarves, cloth head protection worn under their helmets and gloves.

After applying Basic Skin Tone (70.815), I used Vallejo Panzer Aces Flesh Shadows (70.343) on the faces to create hollows. A mixture of the same flesh colour and Black (70.950) was used for beards. I painted the eyes using the White and Black. The White was mixed with Cavalry Brown (70.982) to paint the lips. The men's helmets were dusted with a snow effect.

Sled and Scenic Items

The sled comes with boxes of boxes of ammo, supplies, blankets. All the pieces fit together perfectly for gluing, including a protective cloth that fits around the edges of the sled.

I painted the MG34 machine gun and its ammo with Tamiya Acrylic Mini Gun Metal (X-10). Cloths and blankets were decorated with the Vallejo German Uniform grey/green paint combined with a camouflage scheme consisting of a background of German Yellow (70.806), Flat Green (70.968) →



Painting effects inject realism into the sled and its payload.



The top is cut off a plastic bottle to make the fuel drum.



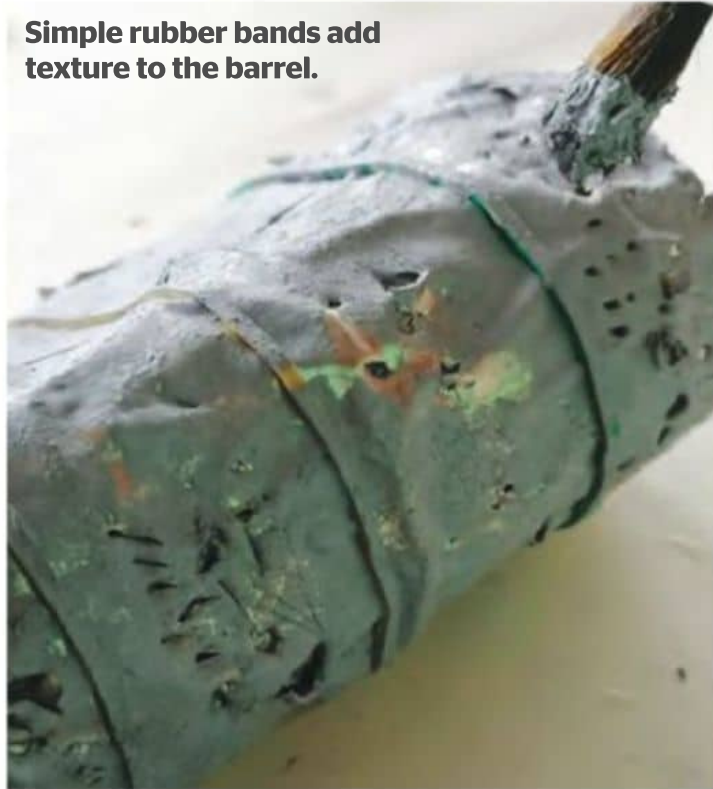
The plastic bottle is wrapped in foil.



A cover is glued onto the bottle as it is turned into a barrel.



A reinforced cap is added to the fuel drum.



Simple rubber bands add texture to the barrel.

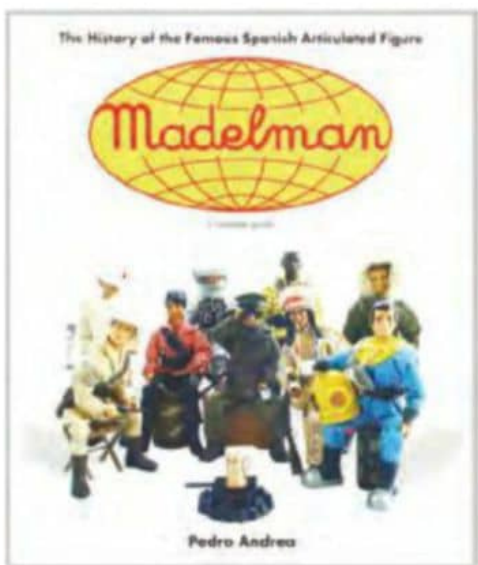


After the barrel is coated in dark brown paint, drops of Orange Brown make rusty spots.

→ and Cavalry Brown with straight-edged, knife-like spots. To make the taut rope the soldiers are using to pull the sled, I used twisted wire about 2mm thick. Sometimes it is difficult to find suitable accessories for large-scale model figures. Although I turned up some possibilities, I opted to make my own 1/10th-scale fuel barrel for the exhausted German machine gunner to sit on. I decided it should be about 4.7in tall with a 2.3in diameter.

To fabricate the fuel drum, I started by cutting the top off an empty alcohol plastic bottle. Then I wrapped it in tinfoil and glued on a cover. I used a bit of tin to add a reinforced cap and attached some rubber bands to create authentic texture. I weathered the fuel drum by crushing and crinkling it, making

cuts with a utility knife and applying a thick layer of the Tamiya putty dissolved in acetone. I coated the barrel in very dark brown before adding intermittent spots of the Orange Brown paint to mimic rust.



The source of my German soldier bust's lower body is chronicled in the book **Madelman: The History of the Famous Spanish Articulated Figure (2007)** authored by Pedro Andrea and published by Andrea Press.

Chilly Gunner Construction

My next challenge was creating the forlorn and frozen German soldier

sitting on a damaged fuel drum.

An incredible variety of busts mostly available in either 1/9th or 1/10th-scales are currently available from established brands such as Young Miniatures, Elite Miniatures and Alpine Miniatures to name a few, and they are undoubtedly attractive for the advanced modeller. Unfortunately, full-bodied historical figures in such large scales are not abundant. There are some exceptions thanks to makers such as Verlinden Productions and Italeri, but the options are limited.

For those reasons, the challenge that I set for myself with this diorama was highly experimental beforehand. The question I asked myself was, 'Would I be able to join a 1/10-scale bust with a realistic human body adapted to a proper posture for the planned scene?'

I could have tried to model the trunk and legs for the bust myself, but an interesting alternative presented itself. In an old box at home, I had some Madelman articulated action figures made in Spain during the 1970s. Later they were reissued as collectables by Altaya of Spain. They were made in about the same scale as my Eastern Front German soldier bust by Young Miniatures, so I could make a match!

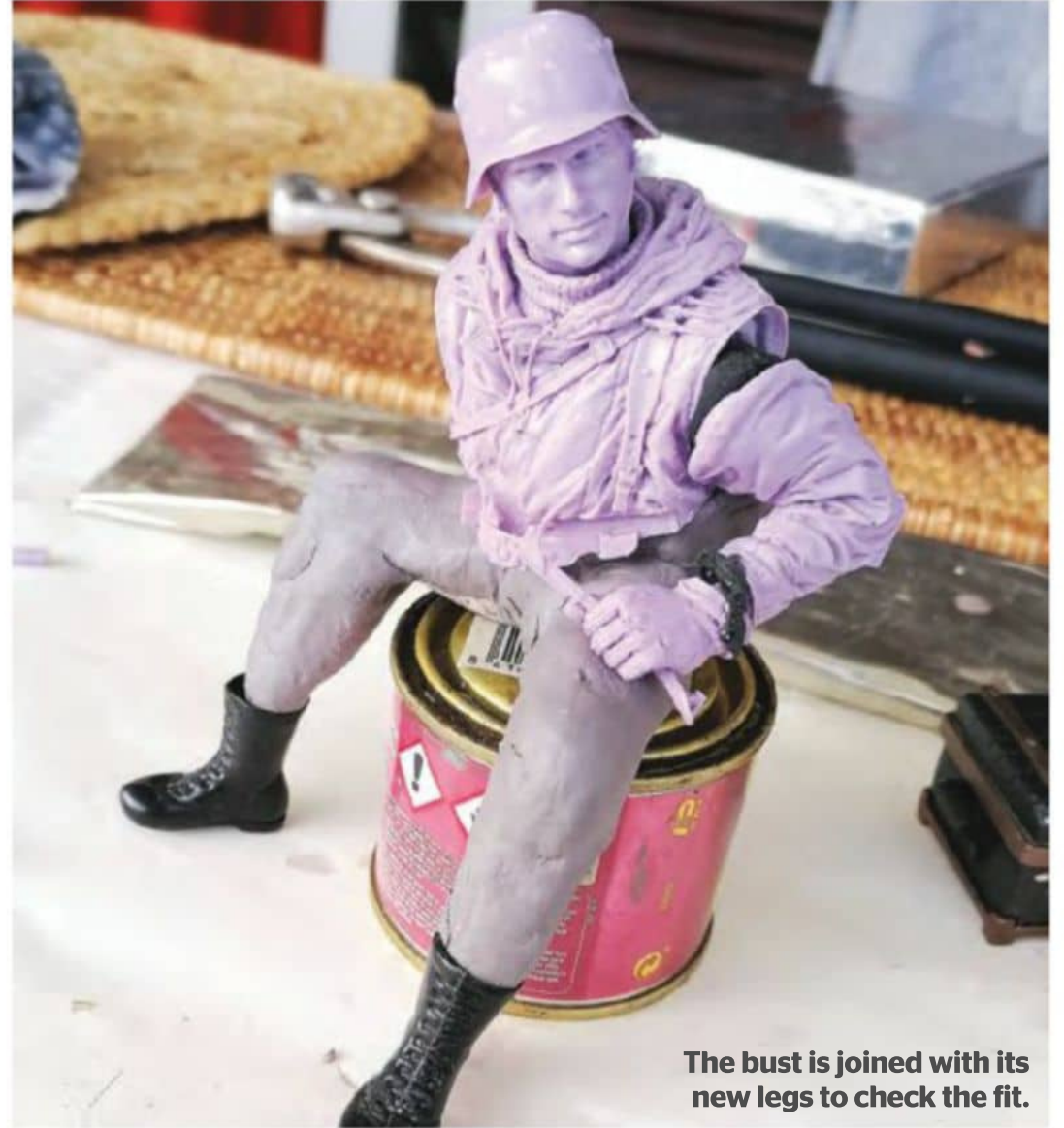
An action figure's legs were used as a foundation to shape a lower body for the bust. After the thighs and calves were properly placed in a seated position, I used Jovi air-drying modelling clay to gradually add thickness to their musculature. Once the legs were completed, I combined them with the bust to check the proportions.

After the legs' putty dried, I borrowed some trousers from a Madelman figure. They were dipped in water and white glue so

An action figure's legs are enlisted as a foundation to transform the bust into a full-bodied soldier.



Putty is used to build up the legs' musculature to match the bust.



The bust is joined with its new legs to check the fit.



The German soldier sports realistically wrinkled pants borrowed from a Madelman action figure.

when they dried wrinkles appeared naturally in the fabric. The overall figure needed to be enhanced with the Tamiya putty, especially to have his right arm gesturing a greeting. I padded the arms with putty and used some on the hood. Putty was also used to make leggings and hide some imperfections in the fabric of the trousers. In addition, I made a balaclava that provided me with some guidance for handling the strap that adjusts the helmet. A fine cutting tool was used to create damage on the helmet.

Also, I added some accessories that were not included with original bust. I made a gas mask case made from tinfoil wrapped in a cylindrical piece of wood. I happened to already have a leather belt in the right scale in a box of spare components at home. I glued on a coil of rope approximately 2mm thick that should be readily available at any hardware store.



Putty enhances the figure in different ways.



Enhancements include adding damage to the helmet, making a gas mask case, putting on a leather belt and supplying a coiled rope.



The seated soldier's pants and leggings are painted.



The lonesome German's face undergoes painting.



The forlorn and frozen German soldier posed seated is completed and placed in the diorama.

→ Gunner Painting

The seated machine gunner's leggings were painted in Medium Olive (70.850). The grey/green German Uniform colour was brushed on the pants. The texture of the trousers' fabric helped with adding realistic tears. His reversible jacket's painting followed the same pattern as his comrade with the eye injury.

The soldier's face was painted with Vallejo Game Color Wash: Flesh (73.204) and Light Flesh (70.928). I used Ultramarine (70.839) for his blue eyes with a touch of black and a pure white light point.

Diorama

Designing the setting for the CSD was not complicated. First, I worked with a white polyurethane sheet cut to the same size as the table. Then I applied white DAS air-hardening modelling clay. After that layer dried, I added Aguaplast ready mixed filler diluted with water.

I selected some dried roots to simulate a couple of old tree trunks. The third and final coat mimics fresh snow and ice by using Green Stuff Model Snow Powder and Vallejo Water Texture Still Water (26.230).

I asked my son to help me at the moment of taking a photo of my CSD by sprinkling tiny artificial snowflakes with his hand to add a sense of realism. END

ABOUT THE WRITER

Spanish model maker Enrique Carrasco was born in the Canary Islands. The journalist, writer and professor has published nine books related to history and communication. In addition, he has spent more than 40 years perfecting different modelling techniques, including creating dioramas and naval modelling. Enrique has also organised several competitions and exhibitions. He has had a number of articles published in Spanish modelling magazines and authored two books. Enrique's most recent book *Combining Scales for Realistic Dioramas* (2022) has been sold in more than fifteen countries.



Two German soldiers pulling a sled approach the lonesome machine gunner.

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The colour and vibrant poses of the figures stand out in the Trojan War range by John Jenkins. All the figures and walls illustrating this article were produced by JJD.



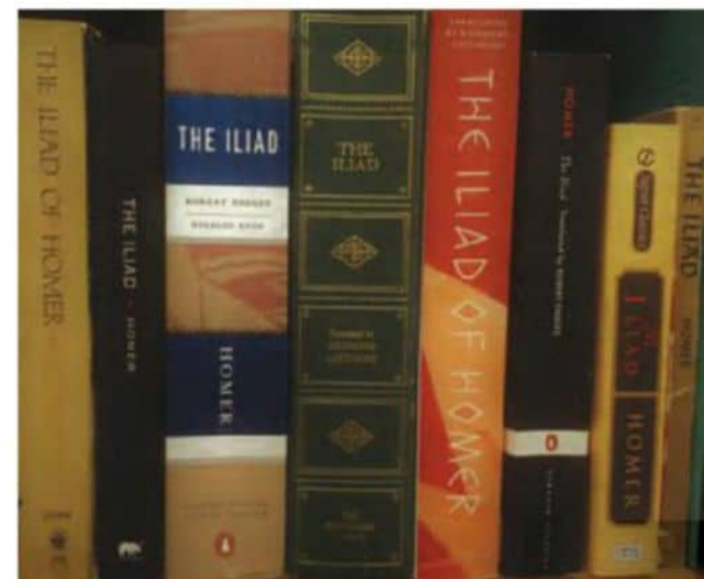
Trojan archers man the ramparts to protect their city.

The Legend of Troy

Gary Emery digs into the *Iliad* and archaeology to try to separate fiction from facts about his collection of Ancient warriors.

Text and Photos: Gary Emery

Is the Trojan War fact or fiction? It can be challenging to decipher events that might have taken place in the late Bronze Age. For thousands of years, the story of the Trojan War has been read and reread as immortalised in the epic poem the *Iliad* attributed to Homer. It was written around 800 BC some 450 years after the dramatic events reportedly took place.



Copies of the *Iliad* by Homer. (Wikipedia Commons)

Love and War

Homer tells the story of Trojan Prince Paris, who travels to Sparta in southern Greece on a mission to strengthen diplomatic ties between the two powerful city-states. Sparta's King

Menelaus is married to Helen, who is described as the most beautiful woman in the world. While Menelaus is away attending a funeral, Paris either elopes or abducts Helen and takes her to Troy. The Spartan ruler is so outraged

that he gathers together fellow Greek kings and warlords belonging to the Achaean Coalition. They resolve to lay siege to prosperous city of Troy located somewhere along the Mediterranean coast of modern-day Turkey. After collecting an armada of 1,000 ships, the allied army commanded by King Agamemnon of Mycenae, the older brother of Menelaus, sets sail, lands and besieges the walled city for ten years.

Numerous leading warriors die in mortal combat while the Greek gods watch over events and occasionally intervene on behalf of one side or the other.

In the end, the Achaeans play a trick by feigning giving up the long siege and setting sail for home after leaving behind a gift of a giant wooden horse. The jubilant Trojans bring the offering into their city.

Unbeknownst to them, a small band of Achaean warriors is hidden inside the immense horse. The ruse works when they emerge at night and open the city gates to let in their comrades, who had only sailed to a nearby bay to lie in wait until the appointed hour.

Trojan Prince Hector leads a sally out of the city to attack the Achaeans.



Homer's Epic Poems

The *Iliad* is divided into 24 books telling the tales of many heroes, including Achilles, Hector and Ajax of Greece and Troy's Hector, Sarpedon and Memnon.



Figure of Patroclus, Achilles' childhood friend and companion who was slain by Hector. The enraged Achilles sought revenge.

The Greek army sacks and burns the city while killing many of the inhabitants, including the Trojan King Priam, whose offspring includes Paris, the heroic warrior Hector and the prophetic Cassandra, who had warned against Greeks bearing gifts. According to the *Iliad*, a few Trojans led by the nobleman Aeneas manage to escape the bloodbath and sail to Italy where they found what became the city of Rome.

As for the Achaeans, Homer also wrote the epic poem the *Odyssey* about the many tribulations and adventures during the victorious army's return to Greece. The main focus is Odysseus, the heroic king of Ithaca, and his perilous ten-year journey home. Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* have had a lasting impact on the popular imagination and cultural values. Their narratives, especially the *Odyssey*, have reverberated for millennia. They rank as

Achilles was the most renowned of the Greek heroes.



'Triumphant Achilles' dragging the slain Hector's body. The original 1892 painting by Franz Matsch is a fresco on the upper level of the main hall of the Achilleion at Corfu, Greece. (Wikipedia Commons)



Greek polychromatic pottery painting of Achilles during the Trojan War dating to around 300 BC. (Wikipedia Commons)

some of the oldest works of extant Ancient literature still commonly read by Western audiences.

Fact or Fiction?

Historians and archaeologists across the ages have wondered whether there is any truth to these tales or is it all fiction used to pass dark nights in the early Iron Age when travelling storytellers would recite long stories and be rewarded by a warm fire, a hot meal and a cup or two of wine. These events have tenaciously held Western civilisation's imagination for thousands of years as the search for the reality behind these fantastic stories seems never-ending.

Evidence collected during the past 200 years suggests that some of the events in the *Iliad* might be based on an actual war fought roughly around 1250 BC. Around that same time most of the civilisations in the eastern Mediterranean either ceased to exist or went into severe decline with the exception of Egypt.

There are many theories about why this happened such as climate change, famine and the migration of populations. The region experienced earthquakes, fires, floods and a breakdown

in trade. Incursions by a confederation known as the Sea Peoples wreaked havoc by sacking many towns during the late Bronze Age collapse of societies. Local uprisings against wealthy and tyrannical kings also might also have been a factor.

We might never know the reasons behind the decline of these once flourishing civilisations, but I suspect it was a perfect storm of several events coming together. What we do know is that trade, written languages, urbanisation and technological innovation went into decline. This was the start of the Ancient Dark Ages. The eastern Mediterranean region would not start to recover until around 800 BC. Faced with a more rural and dispersed agricultural existence, the populace would have received their news and entertainment from travelling storytellers or bards. Writing virtually ceased to exist, so societies relied almost entirely on oral tradition. By the time writing re-emerged and Homer or someone else wrote down the *Iliad*, it was likely based on more than 400 years of storytelling. Homer might well have drawn from different tales to create one sensational story. Still, it would seem that there must be some truth to the events underlying tales that have endured to the present day.

Search for Troy

The site of Troy has been sought for centuries. A number of amateur archaeologists identified a mound at Hisarlik as the site of an Ancient city that might have been Troy. It is located along the Turkish coast near the Dardanelles a stone's throw from the site of World War I's Gallipoli Campaign.

In 1873, German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann dug a huge





An imposing figure of the Achaean warrior Ajax.

→ trench right through the centre of the mound and discovered that many different cities had been built in layers on the same site. While his techniques were crude, successive archaeologists found the ruins of one walled city that had been destroyed by fire along with evidence of siege warfare, arrowheads and buried supplies dating to around the same time that the Trojan War is believed to have taken place.

A clay tablet found at the Ancient Hittite Empire's capital Hattusa also indicates trade and ties with a city called Wilusa in north-west Turkey around 1200 BC. This is close to the Greek name *Ilios* that was used by Homer as the name for Troy. Therefore, we know of an important seaside city in north-west Turkey that was besieged and destroyed around 1250 BC. Also, conflicts between city-states in western Turkey and the Achaeans were quite plausible during the late

German amateur archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann (1822-1890).
(Wikipedia Commons)



Bronze Age.

As a result, I am putting my neck on the block and saying that the *Iliad* is probably based on historical events in north-west Turkey. Perhaps actual events were embellished and/or mixed with other stories to form the enduring and fantastic tale of the Trojan War.

The *Iliad* might be fanciful in its description of gods and heroes, and there might not have been a wooden horse, but it does give us a tantalising glimpse of late Bronze Age warfare. Its descriptions of chariots, archers, infantry, siege warfare and single combat along with the enduring brutality of war are testament to how at least in part the *Iliad* was based on actual events.

Saga in Miniature

It was with these thoughts in mind that I tentatively purchased my first 1/30-scale painted metal figures from the Trojan War range produced by Hong Kong-based John Jenkins Designs (JJJ). I am not a collector of fantasy figures because I prefer toy soldiers based on historical events, but I am drawn to the realism maker John Jenkins manages to get into matt-finished figures portraying how late Bronze Age warriors might have appeared based on the relatively limited information available. That was good enough for me and I soon became an avid

Chariots were extensively used in late Bronze Age warfare.



Hisarlik, Turkey, is believed to be the site of the Ancient walls of Troy.
(Wikipedia Commons)

collector of the series.

What is thought to have been the style of warfare played out on the plains outside Troy is based on extensive use of horse-drawn chariots. Those mobile fighting platforms were fairly light and manoeuvrable as they carried a driver and a warrior who could fire arrows or throw spears at the enemy. Light infantry, or runners, would overpower and slay the occupants of downed or crippled chariots.

To protect themselves against chariot attacks, infantrymen used long spears and large shields. They could also protect archers or slingers who would otherwise be exposed. These tactics reemerged in the seventeenth century during the Pike and Musket era. The use of warriors mounted on horses appears to have been limited at this time. Later on, cavalry emerged from the central Asian steppes during the Iron Age and made



King Agamemnon of Mycenae commanded the Greek forces.

Massed Achaean archers pepper the Trojan ramparts. Many arrowheads were found at the site presumed to be Troy.



Late Bronze Age infantry carried large shields and had long spears to protect archers and slingers from attacks by chariots.



Trojan Prince Paris triggered the war by abducting or eloping with Sparta's Queen Helen. He is portrayed in the *Iliad* as being somewhat cowardly and effeminate.

combat chariots obsolete.

Ritualised single combat might have been a feature of late Bronze Age warfare. This theme comes through strongly in the *Iliad* as each army's heroes do battle. Single combat has both practical and psychological purposes. It can uplift or

reduce the morale of opposing armies, and it can save bloodshed, if the ultimate outcome of battle can be decided that way. This aspect of warfare carried on through to medieval times when single combat might precede a battle. A famous example is how Scottish King Robert

the Bruce killed the English knight, Sir Henry de Bohun on the first day of his victory at the Battle of Bannockburn fought on 23-24 June 1314.

I consider the Trojan War to be a highly collectable era to add to my other Ancient toy soldiers. They capture a good deal of the character of Bronze Age warfare. John has not disappointed collectors with his releases of Achaean and Trojan chariots, archers, infantry and some more fanciful mounted Amazon warriors. Even with those female figures there is a grain of truth as the Amazons were reportedly from the central Asian Steppe where warriors first started riding horses into battle.

The JJD range includes figures of heroes and other characters for hobbyists who

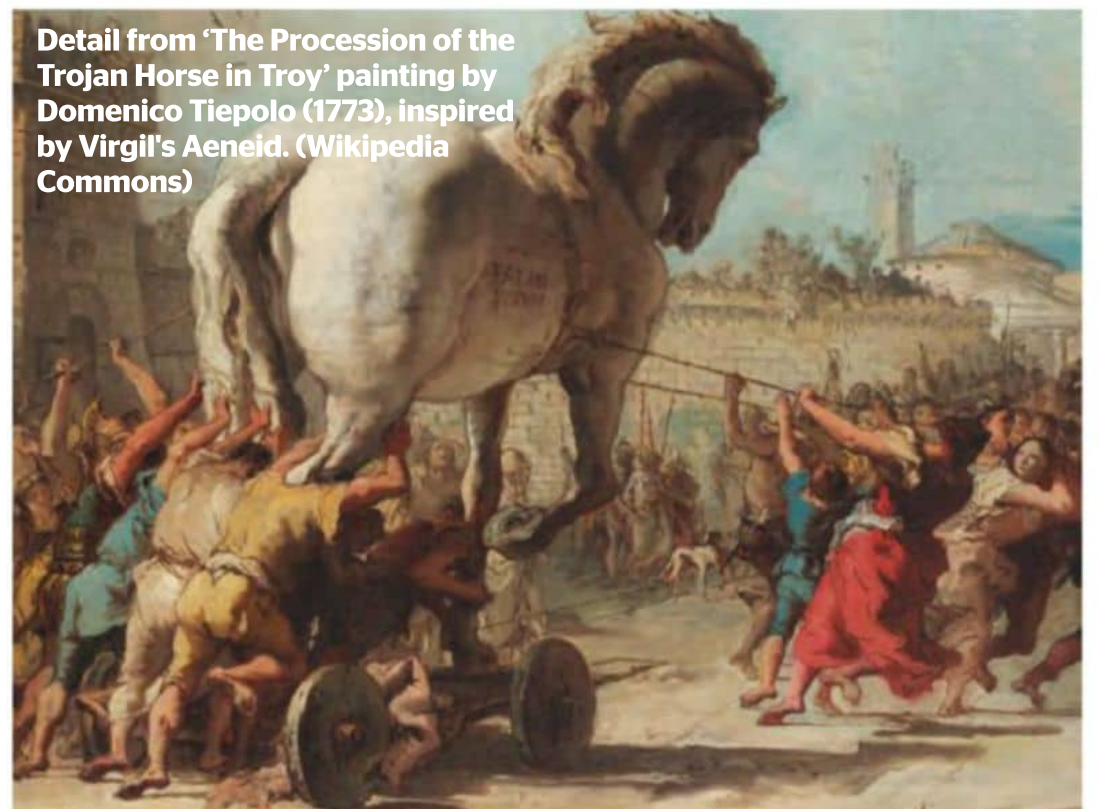
wish to re-enact dramatic moments from the *Iliad* with the famed formidable walls and tall towers of Troy adding to the scene. The action, colour, vibrancy and storytelling are all there to recreate one of the most famous stories in history. I just haven't so far managed to persuade myself to buy a model of a Trojan horse! **END**

ABOUT THE WRITER

Like many collectors, Gary Emery played with plastic toy soldiers from the likes of Airfix and W. Britain while growing up in rural Devon, UK, in the 1970s. He became hooked again after seeing an advert for a Del Prado figure in 2001. Through the ensuing years, Gary has amassed a collection of more than 12,000 metal figures covering most eras of history. His work as a senior government auditor has taken him around the world with stints encompassing England, Wales, Australia and Samoa.



Clashes during the ten-year siege were marked by brutal hand-to-hand combat.



Detail from 'The Procession of the Trojan Horse in Troy' painting by Domenico Tiepolo (1773), inspired by Virgil's Aeneid. (Wikipedia Commons)

Wintry London Show Offers Warm Welcome

Contributing Editor George Phillips recounts how a chilly wind was blowing, but attendees were guaranteed a warm welcome at December's London show featuring some 50 traders.

Text: George Phillips

Photos: Andy Whittaker

Though a chilly wind was blowing on the morning of Saturday, 2 December, visitors to the London Toy Soldier & Historical Figures Show were guaranteed a warm welcome.

I'm always amazed at how quickly the December show seems to come around each year. Maybe it's a function of getting older, but the twelve months seem to hurtle by with ever-increasing rapidity. Before I know it, I'm hopping up the steps of the Haverstock School ready to report on the collectable goodies on offer at final show of the year. Because of its proximity to Christmas, the December show hosted by Guideline Publications has a distinctive seasonal buzz. I sense that many collectors arrive with the goal of securing the gifts they really want from Santa Claus.

Around 90 hobbyists opted for the early bird option and paid a small premium to enter the show an hour before the general public. I arrived at the same time as this group and at 09:30 on the dot we were ushered into the show to be greeted by about 50 different UK and international dealers.

Terrific Tartans

On entering the Mountbatten Room, I made a beeline for the tables of Loggerheads Military Studio. For the uninitiated, Loggerheads is an artisan model soldier business operated by Louise Handley. She offers clients connoisseur-painted metal figures in 54mm, in addition to military busts and larger-scale resin figures. I had heard that she had released some new items and some are featured in a review elsewhere in this edition.

This report includes a photo of Louise's superb Black Watch bagpipers also now available. Anyone who has attempted to paint a tartan will know what a time-consuming and frustrating endeavour it can be, but she nails the task with aplomb, boosting the attractiveness and collectability of her Highland miniatures. The pipers photographed for this report are sold in sets of ten priced at £300.



**Deftly painted Black Watch bagpipers by
Loggerheads Military Studio.**



The superb Confederate gun team and limber made by JJD and available from Grey Goose Collectables.

the dynamic 'animation' of the team's horses along with the superb attention to detail in the fieldpiece and limber, including miniature metal chains for the traces. It's a truly stunning piece. All the components that make up this set, including the extra caisson and spare wheel, cost £493.

Ancient Warfare

Clive also displayed a Carthaginian war elephant from the JJD 'Ancients Collection'. The beast is 'crewed' by a rider and spearman seated on a crimson blanket rather than a houdah or fighting tower. The momentum of a charging elephant combined with the point of a long-shafted spear must have been a truly terrifying proposition for Roman legionnaires who had to face one. This interesting piece would make a fine addition to any Ancient world collection and was priced at £208.



Carthaginian war elephant by JJD.

Rebel Artillery

Just across the room from Louise's tables was the display of Grey Goose Collectables. Owned and operated by Clive Gande, the UK business sells figures and vehicles by Figarti Miniatures, Model Armoury and John Jenkins Designs (JJD).

It's an understatement to say that the output of Hong Kong-based JJD is prodigious. The Grey Goose tables were creaking with the JDD items that Clive brought to the show, including some terrific new releases. My eye was drawn first to an American Civil War Confederate gun limber towing a six-pound cannon. The picture that accompanies this report illustrates



Clive Gande's offerings included a charging mounted figure of Ancient Macedonia's General Parmenion.



Daniel Wildmann was selling an Arab caravan recreated in the style a pre-World War I Heyde set.



→ Dialling the clock back two centuries before the Punic Wars, the next item I spotted on Clive's shelves was a highly dynamic depiction of the Macedonian General Parmenion, who was in service to both King Philip II and his son Alexander the Great. Parmenion would go on to command the left wing of Alexander's army during his campaigns in battle against the Persia Empire while Alexander commanded the right. The JJD model of the accomplished Hellenistic warrior is galloping at full tilt on a light grey mount and looks all business with his spear facing point-first toward the enemy. I admire the fine detail of the bronze Boeotian helmet and leopard skin saddle blanket, and believe this piece priced at £108 would make a fine addition to anyone's Ancients collection.

Heyde Arab Caravan

Now let's switch gears from modern matt-painted metal to glossy pre-World War I miniatures – or at least very good imitations of them. Berlin-based dealer Daniel Wildmann was selling an eye-catching Arab caravan train in 48mm metal. According to Daniel, the set – which contains twelve figures, a camel equipped with a howdah and some scenic pieces – is a fairly recently produced facsimile



Composition British infantry of the Great War made by Lineol.

The awesome 1/24-scale model of a World War II German King Tiger tank by an unknown maker.



Closeup of the regimental insignia on the mystery King Tiger tank's turret.

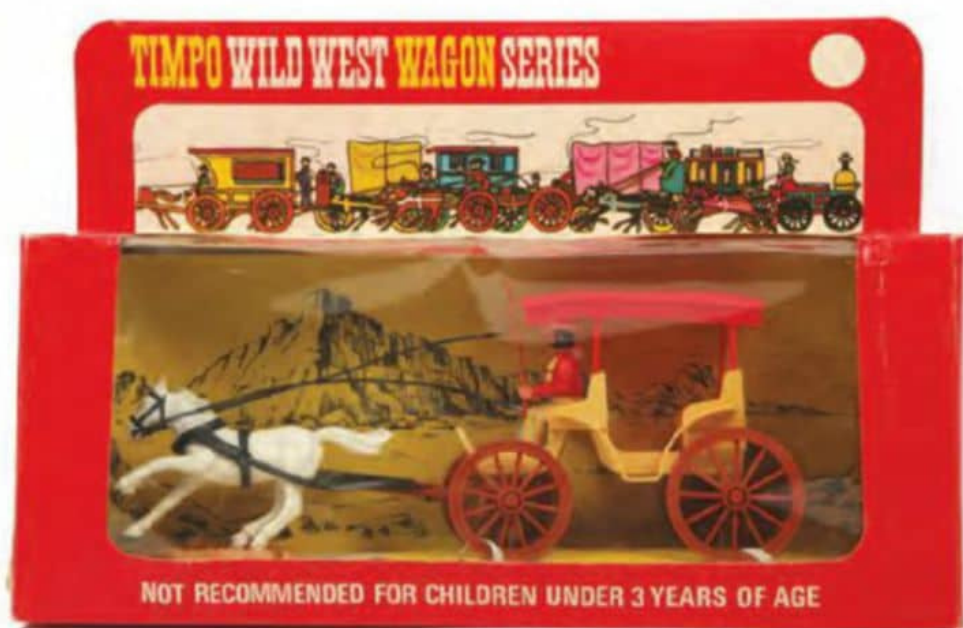


of a pre-World War I set released by German manufacturer Heyde of Dresden.

Despite the brightness of the traditional gloss paint, which betrays its recent manufacture, the set is still evocative of a bygone age. I'm sure the young owners of the original sets produced at the turn of the twentieth century found them then to be exciting and exotic playthings. This item was on sale for £230.

Composition Tommies

Set up next to Daniel in the Waterloo Room was veteran vintage toy soldier dealer, Adrian Little of Mercator Trading. In scanning his display, my eye was drawn immediately to an unusual group of 70mm composition British World War I infantrymen. Released by Lineol before World War II, the figures are noteworthy in that they wear the fabric hats of the 1914 British Expeditionary Force, rather than the steel helmets more normally associated with figures of this type and age. The rarity and good condition of the models was reflected by a price tag of £150 for an officer and four riflemen.



The boxed Timpo surrey being sold by dealer John Begg.



Wild West buggy made shortly before Timpo ceased production.

Big Cat Mystery

Lurking menacingly on the shelf behind Mercator's five Tommies was an enormous tinplate German King Tiger tank produced in what looked like 1/24-scale. Adrian – along with the group of hobbyists who were gathered around his tables – was unable to identify the maker, but the consensus was that it had probably been manufactured in Germany in the last twenty to 30 years. All metal except for the caterpillar tracks and towing cables, which were made from some kind of poly plastic, the World War II model was very impressive with an elevating gun, revolving turret, and opening metal hatches and engine compartments.

One of the collectors on hand commented on the regimental insignia that appeared on the turret, suggesting the charging knight on a horse with red caparison represented the 505th Heavy Panzer Battalion.

I'm not sure if that's the case and would like to turn to our readers for some help on two counts. First, does anyone know the maker of the hefty 1/24-scale *Königstiger* and second, does the insignia indeed represent the 505th?

Whatever the model's history, it was priced at what I believe is a very reasonable £265.

Timpo Transport

Boxed sets of vintage plastics are always popular at the London show, and dealer John Begg can always be relied upon to have some top-end items for sale. Two late series Timpo Wild West sets were among the sought-after collectables on his tables.

Fans of the movie musical *Oklahoma!* (1955) would no doubt appreciate Timpo's take on the 'Surrey with a Fringe on Top'. This 1978 set was packaged in one of the distinctive red boxes associated with the company's final phases of production. Sitting next to a bonnet-wearing woman is a fifth series cowboy steering a team of two familiar-looking white Timpo horses. The surrey itself is moulded in yellow with the fringe above the passengers' heads in red plastic. In mint condition presented in a well-preserved box, the item was priced at £140.

The other piece was a Timpo horse-drawn buggy which again featured a female passenger and driver. Moulded in sky-blue plastic, the buggy is pulled by two white horses and features the nice little detail of luggage items slung in the back. That boxed set was priced at £120.

Notable Guests

Guideline Managing Director Alan Corkhill welcomed appearances by visitors who had not made it to the show in a while due to the coronavirus pandemic or other circumstances. They included Hong Kong-based King & Country Ltd. cofounder and Creative Director Andy C. Neilson, who joined Italian dealer Stefano Allorini of Saimex at the London event.

The team from US-based W. Britain Model Figures in attendance included President and Creative Director Kenneth A. Osen, Vice President Ericka Osen, Manager of Operations and Collectors' Club Manager Ted Deddens, and sculptor Graham Scollick. The Osens timed their trip to unveil their brand-new Campaign Miniatures range of resin model kits



→ based on W. Britain painted metal figures and vehicles at both the Saturday toy soldier event and then Guideline's London Plastic Modelling Show on Sunday, 3 December, held in the same venue.

In addition, the toy soldier gathering afforded Alan a chance to confer with Patrick Adams of The British Toy Soldier Company. As I reported in issue 114, they plan to launch the new Midlands Toy Soldier, Fantasy and Wargaming Show on Sunday, 8 September 2024 at the Staffordshire County Showground.

In Closing

The December show had its familiar seasonal buzz and it looked like most dealers were having a brisk day's trading. Next up is the Spring Show scheduled for Saturday, 23 March 2024, at Haverstock School. The main emphasis will be on toy soldiers, but everything from a free model competition to railway layouts and stands representing aviation, military, fantasy and science fiction modelling as well as trucks, cars and civilian subjects reflecting all the genres covered by Guideline's family of speciality magazines will be represented. We hope to see you there. **END**

ABOUT THE WRITER
TSC&HF Contributing Editor George Phillips is an award-winning features writer and editor with 30 years' experience in publishing. An enthusiastic student of ancient Greek history, he has a deep interest in the Persian War, the Peloponnesian War and the campaigns of Alexander the Great. George's interest in military miniatures was reignited 25 years ago and he has been writing for this magazine for sixteen years in an experience he describes as "fascinating and rewarding."



Alan Corkhill, Andy C. Neilson, and Ericka and Ken Osen are shown standing from the left behind Patrick Adams at the event.



Displays included an impressive Ancient Roman fort diorama.



K&C's Andy C. Neilson chats with collectors.



Items by W. Britain Model Figures blanket tables manned by Graham Scollick, a former Royal Marines drum major who is one of the maker's sculptors, and Manager of Operations Ted Deddens from the left.



Everything from loose figures to warships could be found at the show.



1812

Napoleon's Glory

AK

1944

WW II

Xuan Hua



Napr001



Napr002



Napr003



Napr004



XHTC002



Xuan Hua
Miniature

Super Special



SSXHPZ510



Dealers:

USA:Minutemen Toy Soldiers

Singapore:Toy Soldiers Galleria

Germany Direct Store:Email: tianyi_lu@wkdyd.me

Russia:King and Soldiers

UK:Maison Militaire UK Toy Soldiers

www.xuanhualtd.com



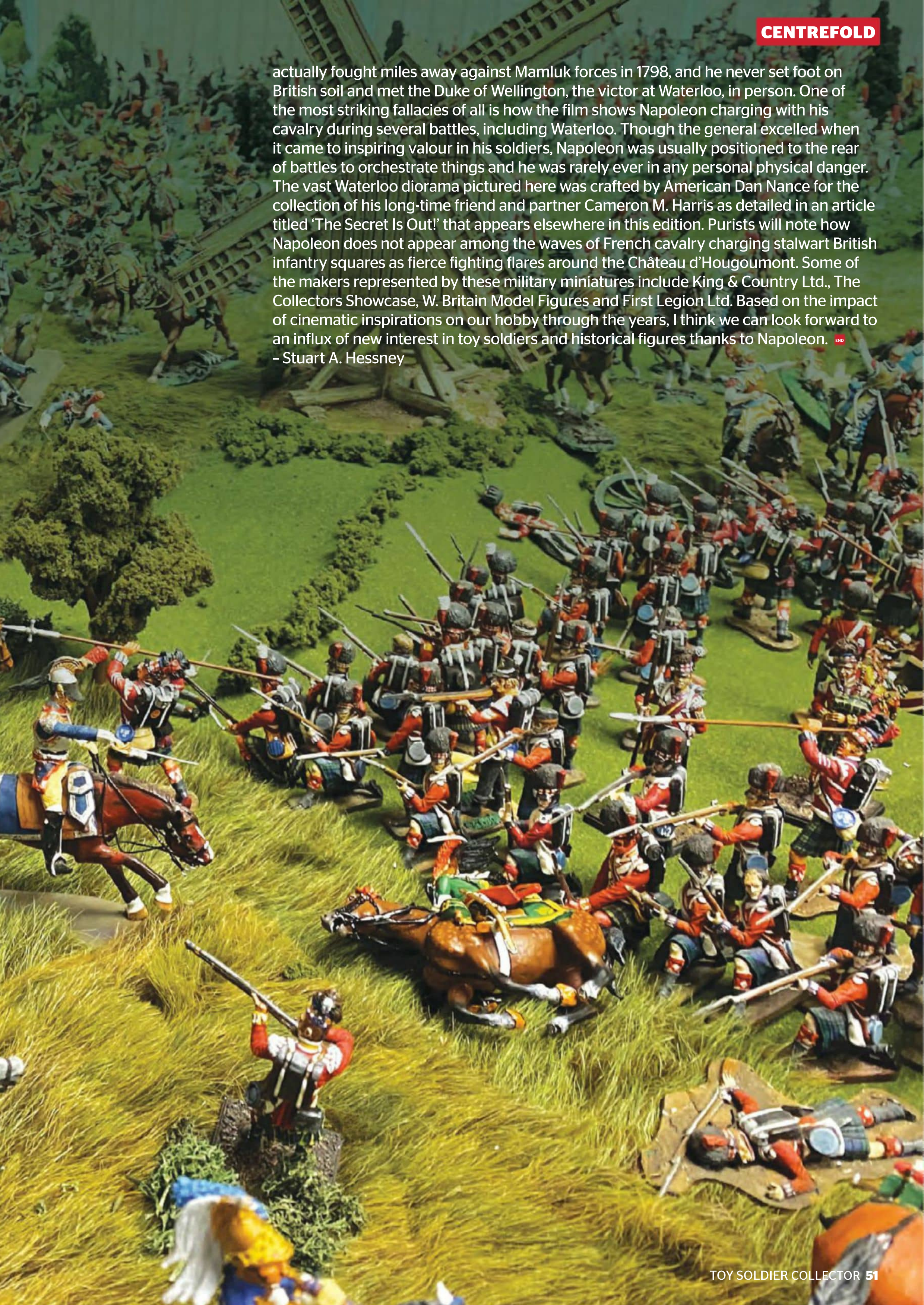
Xuan Hua
Tank

Napoleon Meets His Waterloo

Director Ridley Scott's epic new movie *Napoleon* (2023) is a fairly faithful account of Napoleon Bonaparte's rise to power as the emperor of France and his final defeat in the Battle of Waterloo on 18 June 1815. Yet it includes several striking historical inaccuracies for the sake of drama too. For example, Napoleon as portrayed by actor Joaquin Phoenix was not present at the public beheading of French Queen Marie Antoinette in Paris in 1793, nor was he an adroit horseman as depicted, his invading army did not fire cannonballs at Ancient Egyptian pyramids during a battle

actually fought miles away against Mamluk forces in 1798, and he never set foot on British soil and met the Duke of Wellington, the victor at Waterloo, in person. One of the most striking fallacies of all is how the film shows Napoleon charging with his cavalry during several battles, including Waterloo. Though the general excelled when it came to inspiring valour in his soldiers, Napoleon was usually positioned to the rear of battles to orchestrate things and he was rarely ever in any personal physical danger. The vast Waterloo diorama pictured here was crafted by American Dan Nance for the collection of his long-time friend and partner Cameron M. Harris as detailed in an article titled 'The Secret Is Out!' that appears elsewhere in this edition. Purists will note how Napoleon does not appear among the waves of French cavalry charging stalwart British infantry squares as fierce fighting flares around the Château d'Hougoumont. Some of the makers represented by these military miniatures include King & Country Ltd., The Collectors Showcase, W. Britain Model Figures and First Legion Ltd. Based on the impact of cinematic inspirations on our hobby through the years, I think we can look forward to an influx of new interest in toy soldiers and historical figures thanks to Napoleon. END

- Stuart A. Hessney



The epic Waterloo Room was one of the collection's first spaces to be completed in 2018.

The Secret Is Out!

Artist Dan Nance recounts how discovering his business partner's closet full of military miniatures led him to creating rooms full of varied dioramas and make ambitious plans to entertain, educate and inspire others through social media and tours of the collection.

Text and Photos: Dan Nance

Artist Dan Nance works on a World War II diorama in his studio during 2020.



It was moving day for my longtime patron and business partner, Cameron M. Harris, from one office building to another and I was there simply to lend a hand. The North Carolina businessman had been commissioning artwork by me for years. I was aware that he not only possessed an impressive collection of framed art, but that he was a military miniatures collector too.

Cameron had various figures surrounding his large desk. A knight with a lance or an American Civil War cannon and crew would purposefully point their weapons where his clients would be seated. Other mini-military scenes were placed on a side table and lined up in front of the history books on the many shelves around his office.

As the years went by, I would borrow some of Cameron's figures and photograph them to put in my military paintings. I got to know his office collection of 300 or so pieces quite well. Then one day Cameron invited me into a locked room where I was shown multitudes of unopened boxes collecting dust with hundreds more tucked away in a closet. I was blown away! Little did I know that those many hours of inventorying, labelling and packing his dusty and forgotten yet prized boxes of military miniatures years ago would land me where I am today in a museum-quality maze of my own making!



Dan Nance's digital image enhancement of the attack on Hougoumont at the Battle of Waterloo looks like a film still from an epic war movie.

Opportunity Knocks

I seized the opportunity of the office move, and the fact that my partner was out of town for a week, to unbox every single figure from that closet and fill a room with displays featuring Cameron's collection. Upon returning from the trip, he was so impressed that he encouraged me to continue creating displays.

Five years later more than 2,000 square feet of painstakingly handmade historical and military dioramas feature thousands of figures ranging from the Anglo-Zulu War's Battle of Rorke's Drift to the muddy trenches of World War I, the Wild West, the American Revolution and more. Our massive collection, which started off as a modest 'show-and-tell' side room off the main office, has now grown into nine full rooms of sprawling military history presently located in midtown Charlotte, North Carolina. I believe that this visually stunning military tour-de-force is unrivalled in the south-eastern US.

History in Miniature

For example, the World War II room that I created in 2019

begins in one corner by depicting the US amphibious assault on Omaha Beach in Normandy on D-Day 6 June 1944, then continues past the German defences before rolling inland into the fighting and liberation of the French town of Carentan and beyond. Paratroopers drop from the ceiling landing on German heavy gun emplacements. This impressive room lays out the entire Operation Overlord campaign in a single space.

Down the hall another room recreates the mind-boggling scale of French Emperor Napoleon I's final defeat at the hands of the British Duke of Wellington's allied army in the Battle of Waterloo on 18 June 1815. Wave after wave of French heavy cavalry meets defiant British infantry squares in a panorama enhanced by my strategic use of mirrors to multiply the ranks and illuminate the successive attacks on the sprawling Château d'Hougoumont.

You can't stop there because the next door opens and transports you to the summer of 1863 and the American Civil War's epic Battle of Gettysburg laid out on a custom-made, four-panelled 8ft by 8ft diorama with rolling hills and a bloody crossroads where line after line of Union and Confederate forces clash.



A sense of grand scale is achieved by using mirrors to double the ranks of the varied figures clashing in the Waterloo Room.

→ Artist's Touch

This would-be museum for collectables is the natural progression of my artistry and passion for military history. I've been painting, illustrating and filming stories about the world's famous wars, battles and historical scenes for more than 30 years, making a career and a name for myself long before I stumbled upon the legions of boxes in Cameron's closet. My wife Meghan likes to say that my storytelling knows no bounds because of my 'artist's brain'. Whatever materials and methods I use are simply tools to bring my imagination and subject matter to life ranging from colourful and vivid acrylics and oils on canvas to moving digital animations worked out on my iPad or on busy film sets filled with uniformed extras, pyrotechnics and smoke. My newest 3D miniature diorama storytelling obsession is no different, but I think it's my most passionate work yet. Instead of a painted moment frozen in time, I can show a fuller story with even more context. Though it is created in miniature, I think this creative format gives me the ability to tell a story on a vastly larger scale than the other mediums I've used in the past.

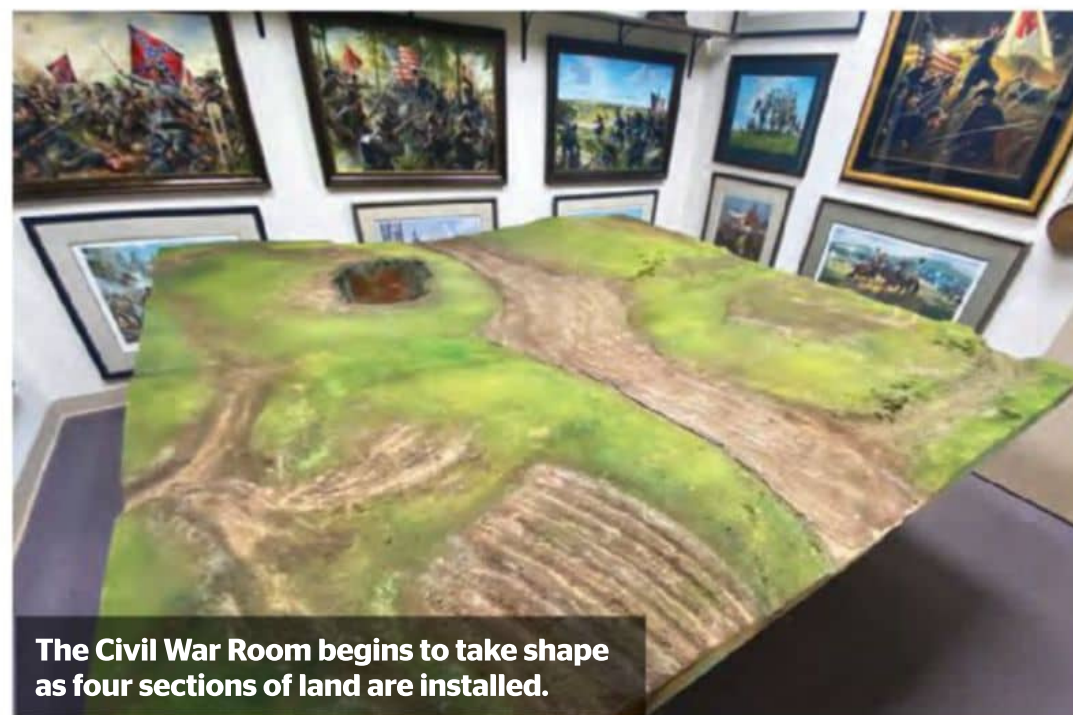
Eye for Details

To achieve these works, I've become a trinket, twigs and titbits hoarder. Many are the days I come home with pockets full of pebbles and bits of leaves or carry mugs of dirt stolen from our houseplants all in the service of creativity and intricate storytelling.

No detail is too small, which means no piece of Styrofoam, plastic or cardboard is safe from my inventive MacGyver-like mind as I experiment in my 'lab'. I scour eBay for the perfect figures, painstakingly research the smallest details of the scene I'm creating and make endless trips to local craft stores. Then I get to work in my art studio-turned diorama laboratory building by spraying, stripping, engineering, burning, painting, pouring, shaping, gluing and more until finally the giant scene is complete, seamless and sturdy yet lightweight and modular so I can fit it through doorways and into the SUV for transport.

I just can't seem to stop myself from inventing one more diorama and telling one more story. Cameron gets as excited as a kid on Christmas morning to see the new pieces precisely installed in rooms that are carefully decorated and adorned with artifacts and many of my original paintings that he has collected through the years.

Dan Nance's painting titled 'A Savage Encounter' pits Union soldiers from the Iron Brigade against Confederate veterans of the South Carolina Brigade in 'The Wheatfield' at Gettysburg on 2 July 1863.



The Civil War Room begins to take shape as four sections of land are installed.



Paintings by Dan Nance adorn the walls of the Civil War Room finished in 2021.



A Union artillery battery desperately tries to repulse a ferocious Confederate attack in the Civil War Room.



North Carolina's military history is the theme of a room with dioramas depicting everything from the American Revolution's Battle of Charlotte in 1780 to World War II US Marines' assault on Japanese-held Tarawa Atoll in 1943.



The artist's copyrighted works include an 'Into the Hornet's Nest' painting inspired by the American Revolution's Battle of Charlotte on 26 September 1780.



The complex Vietnam War diorama completed in 2023 presented a great challenge in designing a balanced combination of water and land elements. Hueys coming into a hot landing zone was the theme and driving force behind it.

Vietnam War Combat

The latest addition to the collection is a massive 8ft by 4ft Vietnam War diorama recreating the US Army 1st Cavalry helicopter assault scene from the movie *Apocalypse Now* (1979). All you'd need is German composer Richard Wagner's operatic 'Ride of the Valkyries' music playing to complete the experience. For this diorama, I wanted to challenge myself to create a village and field after field of rice paddies done with epoxy resin and a rotor wash circle wave effect from a low hanging Bell UH-1 'Huey' chopper

firing on its target. I used craft store faux grass alphabet letters, sawed them into pieces and converted them into field divider lines. I scratch-built a few huts and a long wooden pier from balsa wood. Background foliage was gathered during weeks of finding any small fake plant product that would fit the scale. The trick was to be as diverse as I could in creating a natural overall look of a dense jungle. The result was quite satisfying.

Everything I see starts to become potential for a miniature conversion. I call it going full 'Terminator Vision' where I break down everything I see and try to apply it to some element for use in a diorama. Once I start, I can't stop – it's addictive!

Recruiting Figures

The dioramas provide environments for amazing toy soldiers and historical figures.

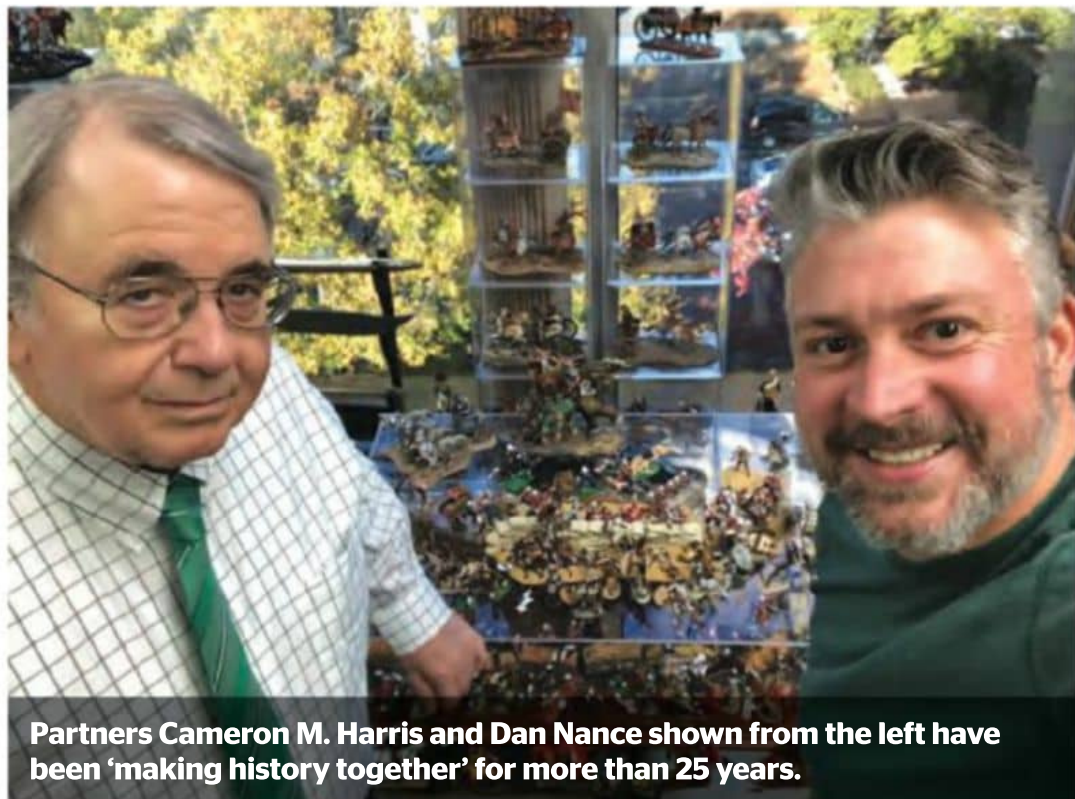
During the past five years I've enjoyed developing relationships with several of the most contemporary popular manufacturers including W. Britain Model Figures and King & Country Ltd. I also love the older Conte Collectibles stuff. Figures by The Collectors Showcase and First Legion Ltd. are very handsome, but sometimes the scale differences can complicate things when mixing groups together. Thomas Gunn Miniatures produces attractive Ancient Romans and



Rescuers rush to a downed US chopper during the attack on a Vietnamese village.



Dan Nance's Vietnam War painting of US 'Brothers in Arms' depicts the blood brother bonds between those who have been in combat together.



→ high-quality aircraft. John Jenkins Designs' diverse period subject matter and dynamic poses are killing it right now. I salute all those out there creating great stuff both professional manufacturers and amateur creators alike!

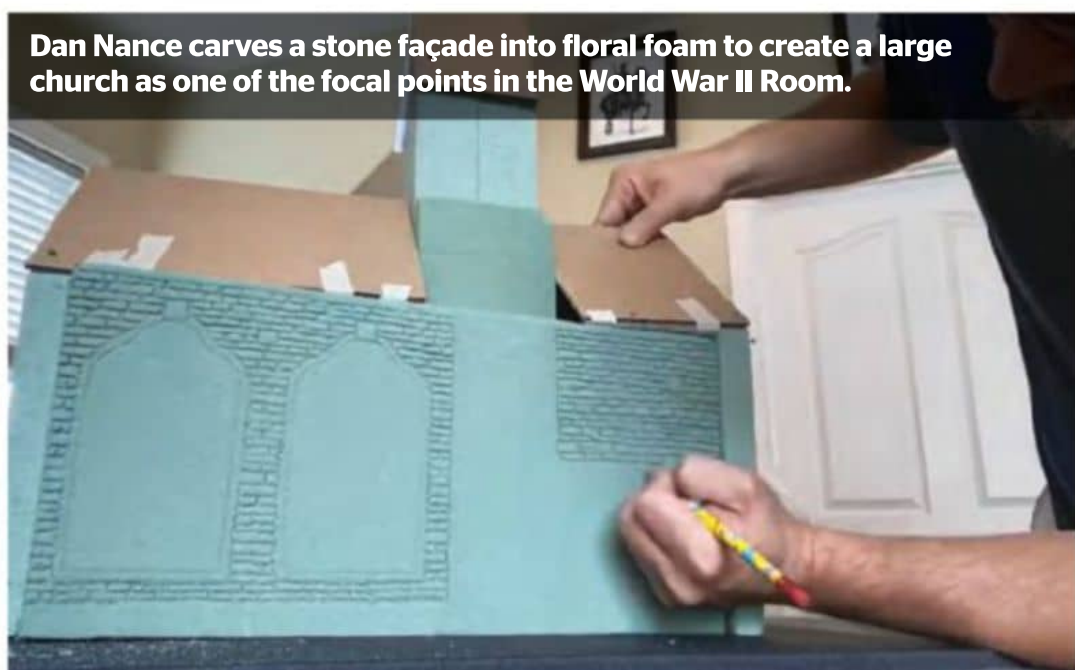
Incredible Potential

My artistic aim with all this detail and effort is to immerse, educate and delight not just my partner, but every type of viewer ranging from military veterans to craft hobbyists, students, historians and enthusiasts by sharing my work online. It's gratifying to spend weeks on a project and then get wonderful responses on social media through feedback in the comments section.

Inspiring people to try something new or attempt creating a small diorama of their own for the first time is special for me. I've had fans contact me and arrange visits all the way from Louisiana to New York and Pennsylvania just to spend a few hours walking through the rooms with a special one-on-one tour. Though I already offer tours to local veterans and enthusiasts, I hope to do more for young people too. I believe there is incredible potential for activating the imagination and creativity in young minds by showing how building a diorama combines a history lesson with creative design work, an engineering project and storytelling. I want to inspire the next generation to think outside the box in a problem-solving situation whether the challenge applies to art and history or science and maths. Exploring these dioramas can unlock the brain to think in a new way, while enjoying something truly unique. I say unique because this feels a bit like a vintage way to experience history while everything else seems to be going virtual or digital.



With both astonishing breadth (as in the 1,000-plus figures in the Waterloo room) and heart-breaking detail (like the bloody waves lapping up on the Tarawa atoll), my large-scale dioramas urge viewers to stay longer, crouch lower and peek into the alleyways, tents and windows to exclaim over a torn curtain signalling the French Resistance, a frosted pond with a submerged tire that spun off a military jeep or the faded advertisements peeling off a bombed-out building. One can almost hear the crunch of snow underfoot in the Ardennes Forest, the smell of fuel soaking the gritty tarmac of a World War I airfield or feel the soft rolling grass in the summertime heat across the rolling fields of Gettysburg. It is all so shockingly real while being so amazingly little. Even if one doesn't claim to be a history buff, you just can't pull your eyes away and stop looking, absorbing, wondering and exclaiming. It's mesmerizing and makes this collection more than mere artistry, but a powerful tool to commemorate, educate and inspire all kinds of enthusiasts at every age and stage.





A World War II diorama depicts US D-Day amphibious landings on Omaha Beach in Normandy under fire from German positions.



Close quarters combat erupts in a town square diorama in the World War II Room.



Dan Nance's 'All the Way!' painting depicts the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division fighting in World War II and illustrates its motto, 'Never leave a man behind.'

Action-packed diorama inspired by the Battle of Rorke's Drift between British troops and Zulu Warriors in 1879.

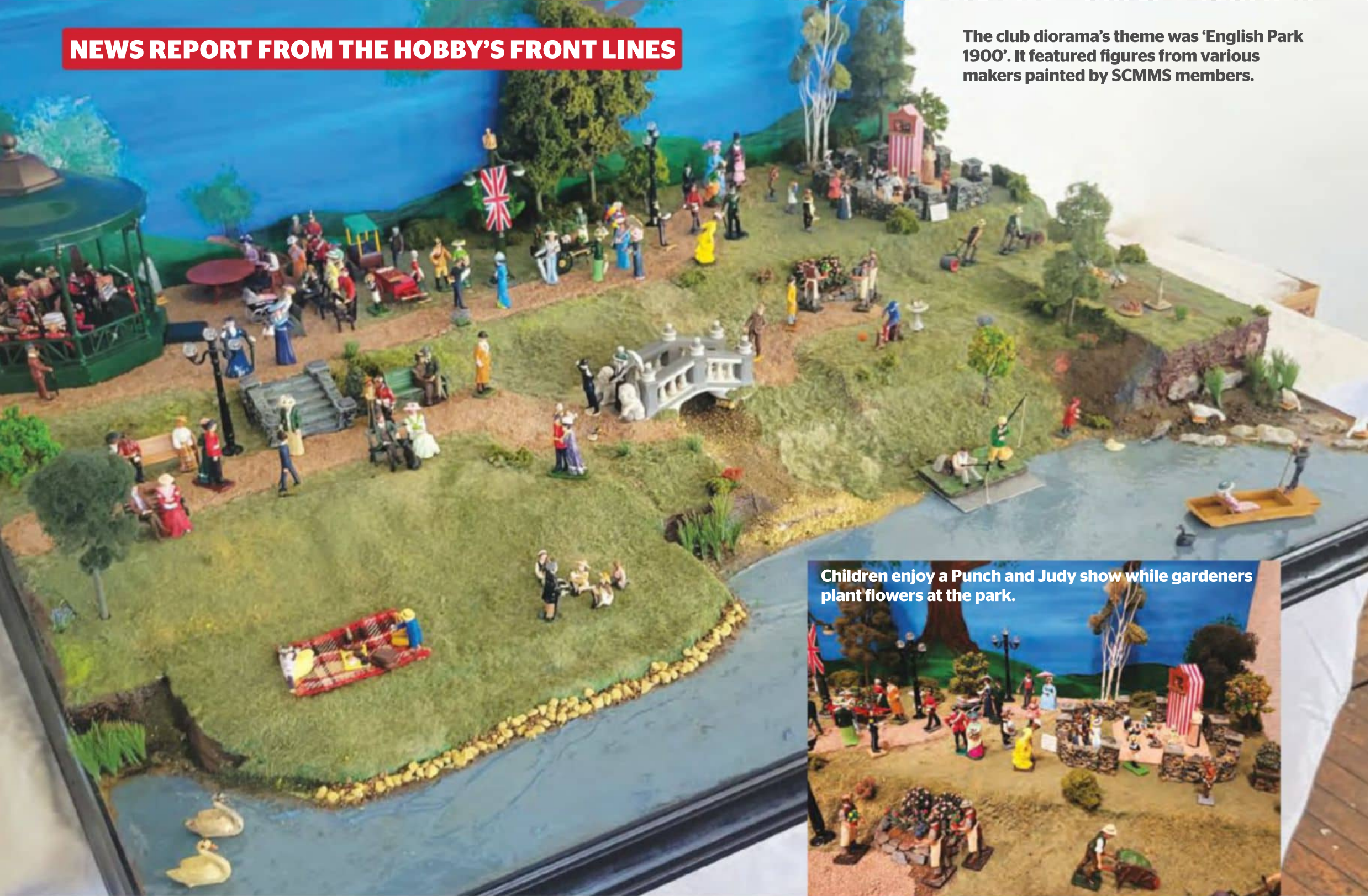


That is why the ultimate goal that I and my patron/partner are working toward is to make these awe-inspiring dioramas a centerpiece to a larger non-profit place open to the public to be a shared space to focus on exploring history, supporting veterans, providing education and connecting enthusiasts, all headquartered in Charlotte.

Hopefully, one day soon these passion projects will be known as the models that built a museum. Until then, enthusiasts can watch my creative process on my YouTube channel, see my military artwork at dannance.com, check in on my work on Facebook and Instagram with the hashtag #dansdailydiorama, and cross your fingers to get lucky enough to snag a spot on an upcoming personal tour now that the secret is out! END

ABOUT THE WRITER

Dan Nance is a professional artist and storyteller with a career spanning more than 30 years. The American's work has been featured on numerous books, magazines, monuments and films. With his passion for history and education, Dan is excited about what he's building with his paintings and dioramas for the purpose of honouring those who served in uniform and inspiring the next generation to learn about history to help shape their future. He lives and works in Charlotte, North Carolina, with his wife and two daughters.



Children enjoy a Punch and Judy show while gardeners plant flowers at the park.

Dioramas Delight at Hobby Event

Text: Jake Jacobs

Photos: Devin Gearon

Jake Jacobs reports on the 32nd annual show staged by the SCMMS.

A competition, displays and traders were featured at the 32nd Annual South Carolina Military Miniature Society (SCMMS) Show on 28 October 2023 at the South Carolina Relic Room and Military Museum in Columbia.

Wares available from eighteen different dealers were spread across 50 tables in the state's capital city. The 2023 show was not one of our stellar performances, but it was not due to the quality of the traders' offerings because plenty of varied and well-priced items were for sale. Club President Jim Raymond observed, "In my opinion, the lack of customers was due to the economy and a lack of extra money for hobbies. Also, renovations at the nearby State Museum complex hindered easy accessibility to our show venue. In addition, I have observed that there have been several conversations across social media recently voicing complaints about a lack public attendance at craft and hobby-related shows in general." Local television station WLTX (channel 19) aired a report following the show featuring interviews with Jim Raymond, founding member Steve Snyder and myself regarding the club diorama titled 'English Park 1900'.

The 'Indian Parley' by Jake Jacobs won an award.



Awards Presented

This year we changed the competition display categories.

Plaque and trophy winners were:

- Colonel Walter 'Stan' Stanton Award Best of Show Plaque': Ben Battiste (medieval knights).
- Wendle Snapp Trophy for the Best Member Painted' entry: Tom McCoy (four military busts).
- Best Diorama/Vignette Trophy': Judd Pratt (Confederate stone wall at the American Civil War's Battle of Fredericksburg).
- Best Civilian/Non-Military Trophy': Jake Jacobs ('India Parley').
- Best Fantasy/Science Fiction Trophy': No entries.



One example of Ben Battiste's medieval figures that won 'Best in Show' honours.



Judd Pratt's diorama depicted Confederate soldiers at a stone wall during the Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862.



An example of the knights that earned the 'Best in Show' award for Ben Battiste.

The SCMMS donated a Battle of Bunker Hill diorama base for future display at South Carolina Relic Room and Military Museum.

Bunker Hill Diorama

The club wishes to thank all the traders who participated in the show, and we hope everyone had a good event. We also want to thank members of the International Plastic Modellers' Society's (IMPS) Mid-Carolina Swamp Fox Modelers chapter and the Armor Modeling and Preservation Society's (AMPS) Central South Carolina Wildcats for bringing their models. We also salute Military Timeline reenactors for bringing history to life at the show.

The club created a diorama base with cannons representing the American Revolution's Battle of Bunker Hill in 1776. Twenty period figures were purchased from one of our local traders to breathe life into the diorama that the SCMMS gifted for future display at the South Carolina Relic Room and Military Museum. Several raffles were held throughout the show with the proceeds going to a local charity. **END**

ABOUT THE WRITER

Jake Jacobs retired as a chief warrant officer five after 40 years of US Army service. He serves as secretary of the SCMMS and leads a team in creating club dioramas. The long-time collector's main interests are British India, the 1903 Delhi Durbar, Scottish regiments and World War II airborne and off-duty military personnel.





Corps of Drums of the Grenadier Guards produced in 2005 by W. Britain. The drum major is the senior member of the Corps of Drums.

British State Dress

Joseph Reed marches out a look at State Dress ceremonial traditions in history and in miniature.

Text and Photos: Joseph Reed

Perhaps one of the most colourful and ornate uniforms worn by members of the British Army is State Dress. This type of ceremonial clothing is worn by members of the Band of the Household Cavalry (formerly the Bands of the Life Guards and the Blues and Royals) and by the drum majors of the Foot Guards Regiments. State Dress is only worn in the presence of the sovereign and other high-ranking members of the royal family. It can be seen at all major royal occasions such as the King's Birthday Parade or at the annual Garter Day at Windsor. State Dress dates from King Charles II's reign from 1660 to 1685, and it ranks as the oldest form of dress still in use by the Army. Although many people think of it as a military uniform, it is considered a formal dress of the Royal Household.

Royal Livery

The origins of State Dress back to 1660 and the restoration of the monarchy after the English Civil War. During his time in exile, the future King Charles II spent time at the court of French King Louis XIV, where he enjoyed seeing liveried musicians perform. In 1659, Charles II formed a Life Guards regiment from



State Dress is worn by the Band of the Household Cavalry on formal occasions when the sovereign or a senior member of the royal family is present such Trooping the Colour.



Drum majors of the Foot Guards wear State Dress on royal birthdays and anniversaries such as Accession Day.



Drum majors of the Foot Guards in State Dress lead their massed bands up The Mall in London.



An exclusive figure of a drum major in State Dress issued by the W. Britain Collectors' Club in 2003.

a group of loyal Cavalier gentlemen who had accompanied him into exile. Once King Charles II was invited back to Britain and gained the throne, he was received in London to public acclaim on his 30th birthday, 29 May 1660. He was escorted by his Life Guards regiment formed in three divisions with each fronted by a kettledrummer and trumpeters on horseback. After what the monarch had observed in France, he was keen to dress the musicians of his new regiment in his own personal livery for the procession. Parliament refused to pay for the ceremonial clothing citing the expense. Instead, Sir Richard Browne, the Lord Mayor of the City of London, stepped in and paid for the uniforms. Ever since it has been the Lord Mayor's privilege to have the Band of the Household Cavalry perform wearing State Dress, most notably at the annual Lord Mayor's Show traditionally staged in November.

State Dress Style

The importance of music at the court of Charles II and the newly established Army was punctuated by the appointment of John Maugridge as drum major general in 1660. The drum major general oversaw the employment of musicians for the royal court and the training of drummers for the Army. A Royal Warrant issued in May 1665 enabled the provision of new uniforms for a drum major, four drummers and a fifer of the royal court. Musicians in royal service had the privilege of leading royal processions. For example, the coronation procession of King James II in 1685 was led by fifers and drummers wearing State Dress.

The uniforms worn on these ceremonial occasions were provided at the expense of the exchequer. They included a cloak, coat, breeches and stockings of red cloth, and a leather doublet trimmed with silk lace. The coats were embellished with the royal cypher.

Further items that were

provided yearly as part of the uniform included a crimson scarf made of taffeta trimmed with a silk fringe, a hat with a band, and a braided livery belt with a silk fringe. A sword was also included, and it was intended to be replaced every three years. More changes to the uniform came in 1672 when the crimson velvet coats were altered to be trimmed with silk and silver lace.

Cavalry Headdress

Meanwhile, the musicians of the Life Guards and Royal Horse Guards continued to wear State Dress on royal occasions with little change to the uniform. The headdress, however, changed up to the reign of Queen Victoria. During the remainder of the Stuart dynasty, musicians would wear a cordebac-style felt cap that originated in Normandy. Later a tricorn hat was worn during the reign of King George I.

A crested helmet was worn between 1817 and 1832, and by 1865 the black jockey cap seen today began to be used.

Foot Guards Bands

In 1685, King Charles II signed a Royal Warrant authorising the establishment of the regimental bands of the Grenadier and Coldstream Guards. The musicians were issued with State Dress uniforms from the royal household's Great Wardrobe to be worn in the presence of the sovereign. When the band of the Scots Guards was established in 1716, its members were also kitted out with State Dress.

Several newspaper reports of the King's Birthday Parades during the Georgian era and later the Regency period remarked on the appearance of the Guards bands in State Dress. Accounts described the musicians as wearing jockey caps, white breeches and heavily embroidered jackets with large regimental badges adorning them rather than the normal royal cypher. The tradition of Guards musicians wearing State Dress continued until 1832, when it was discontinued by King William IV. The frugal monarch wanted to rein in royal finances, particularly after the excesses of his brother King George IV. By the reign of Queen Victoria, images of the Guards drum majors in State Dress appeared in various publications. For example, an 1875 edition of *The Illustrated London News* showed a woodcut of the massed bands of the Guards. The artwork depicts the drum majors wearing jockey caps, tunics and sashes, but wearing normal uniform trousers. This style of State Dress was also featured at Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee and later at the coronation of Edward VII in 1901 when the Royal Military School of Music provided musicians to serve as state trumpeters.



W. Britain ceremonial figures depicting types of ceremonial dress worn by drum majors of the Foot Guards regiments.





‘And what do you do?’ A figure of the late Queen Elizabeth II chats with a drum major. All drum majors of the Foot Guards are appointed by royal warrant as drummers to the sovereign.

→ State Dress was altered for drum majors of the Guards by the 1880s, when they started wearing white gaiters rather than ceremonial uniform trousers. This pattern of State Dress continues to be worn today by drum majors of the Household Division. One of the only times that State Dress was not worn in the presence of the sovereign was at the Trooping of the Colour in 1947. This was one of first large-scale ceremonial events that had been staged since the end of World War II in 1945, and it was one of the few occasions where ceremonial dress was not worn. The Foot Guards wore khaki battle dress while the massed bands wore service dress, including the drum majors. It was not until 1949 that full ceremonial dress was worn again on parade by the Household Brigade, including State Dress.

Contemporary Style

State Dress consists of a black velvet jockey cap and a heavily embroidered crimson and gold lace Tudor-style tunic. It has the ruling monarch’s royal cypher positioned both on the front and back of the coat.

If State Dress is donned by members of the Band of the Household Cavalry, it is worn with white buckskin breeches and highly polished riding boots. Further additions to the uniform include a sword as well as other accoutrements, if members of the band are performing in their role as state trumpeters. If the uniform is worn by a drum major from a Foot Guards regiment, it is worn with white gaiters and black shoes. A further variation to the dress is a crimson-coloured apron fastened at the right hip with a regimental badge.

Foot Guards regimental drum majors also wear a Household Division baldric (cross belt) and carry a regimental staff used to direct the band.

State Dress has always been costly. Kitting out a drum major or a member of the Band of the Household Cavalry costs several thousand pounds. Although the uniform is considered a dress of the Royal Household, it is paid for by the Ministry of Defence.

Today State Dress remains still largely unaltered from the time of King Charles II, but recently a change was made to the clothing. In keeping with tradition, the royal cypher of King Charles III was added. It was worn for the first time at the coronation of Charles III and his wife, Camilla, as king and queen



State trumpeter of the Household Cavalry by Sarum Soldiers. I found this superb 1/32-scale figure at a local toy collectors fair in my hometown of Maidstone.



I found this detailed 110mm figure portraying a Scots Guards drum major in a local charity shop.

of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth realms on 6 May 2023 in London.

State Dress Figures

Figures wearing State Dress have been produced by many toy soldier makers through the years. For example, London-based W. Britain marched out a painted metal set depicting the mounted band of Life Guards in State Dress in 1899. Britains also produced a 54mm marching set portraying the Band of the Grenadier Guards, including a drum major in State Dress, in 1956.

Various other makers have produced individual figures and sets in State Dress more recently, including Ducal Models, Tradition of London Ltd., and Sarum Soldiers.

W. Britain produced a mounted kettle drummer of the Life Guards in State Dress as part of its ceremonial collection in 1993. A Band of Life Guards in State Dress was produced by W. Britain in 1999 that featured two sets depicting the band during the later years of the Queen Victoria's reign. In 2003, a Foot Guards drum major wearing State

Dress was produced for the W. Britain Collectors' Club. A similar figure was also featured in that maker's 2006 limited edition set of the Corps of Drums of the Grenadier Guards.

In addition, W. Britain recreated a version of State Dress as part of its Delhi Durbar range in the early 2000s by depicting British and Indian trumpeters clothed in State Dress. Figures like these would be eye-catching additions to any collector's display of ceremonial pageantry. END

ABOUT THE WRITER

Joseph Reed was born in and still lives in Maidstone, Kent. When he is not working as a decorator's merchant, he has a strong interest in history and has completed a Bachelor of Arts honours degree in History with the Open University. Aside from an interest in history, Joe is also keen amateur musician. He has played the tuba in many local brass and wind bands through the years — most notably with the Medway Towns Bands. He is also a very keen toy soldier collector with a passion for musical and ceremonial figures.



Mounted kettle drummer of the Life Guards in State Dress issued by W. Britain as part of its ceremonial collection in 1993. (Photo by Stuart A. Hessney)

My 1st Regiment,
(USCC), and the
USMA Band.

Converting West Point Cadets

Ray Bell shares some ideas for converting old Britains West Point cadets.

Text: Raymond E. Bell Jr. Photos: Stephanie Bell Veneris



Two versions of 54mm, hollow-cast cadets representing the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, were produced by W. Britain.. Set 299 contained eight cadets in full dress grey (blouses) over white (trousers) uniforms marching with their rifles at the slope. Set 226 provided eight marching cadets in complete full dress grey uniforms (both the blouses and trousers). The same toy soldiers painted in the traditional glossy style could also be found in larger combination display sets. Cadet officers, guidon bearers and colour parties along with West Point bandsmen, however, were never produced by Britains. If an enthusiast wants to include a realistic marching formation in their collection, they must convert the basic figure. That is what I set out to do.

Mustering a Regiment

My goal was to create a cadet regiment of two battalions, the appropriate staffs, a colour guard and a drum and bugle corps. Each battalion was planned to have three companies and a battalion staff. The battalions and colour guard would be led by a regimental staff and accompanied by the band.

By way of organisation, I designated the regiment as the 1st Regiment, Corps of Cadets. The 1st Battalion consisted of Companies A, B and C. The 2nd Battalion was composed of Companies D, E and F.

Staff Conversions

I started the conversions with the regimental staff. The group included the regimental commander, four cadets forming his officer staff and the regimental sergeant major.



D Company, 2nd Battalion, in full dress grey winter uniform.

The 1st Battalion staff, cadet colour guard and C Company created from the old Britains Set 299 in summer uniform.



Conversions with new heads and swords form the 1st Regiment staff in summer dress.

As in the case with all conversions turning rifle-carrying cadets into officers, the heads and rifle arms needed to be replaced, but it was a relatively easy task. A sharp blade removed the cadet head to allow a plumed head on a post to be inserted into the resulting hole. The rifle arm was twisted off its post and a sword arm twisted into its place. The swords of the regimental staff officers are pointed down as they pass in review.

Now that cadet privates had become cadet officers, they needed to have the appropriate uniforms. The basic unpainted figures were repainted to represent the cadets in their formal summer uniform of dress grey blouses over white trousers with scarlet waist sashes and a single white sword belt. The plume on the headdress was painted black.

1st Battalion Recruits

The next unit to be represented was the 1st Battalion's three companies and the four-man cadet officer staff. Just like the regimental staff, its staff conversion involved the painting scheme of a summer uniform with full dress grey over white.

Each company has at least one converted officer, a guidon bearer, and three sets of Britains Set 299: 'West Point Cadets, Summer Dress'. The officers carry their swords in different positions depending on whether their formation is considered as passing in review. The only conversion other than the officer was the guidon bearer and that simply required replacing the rifle arm with an arm bearing a guidon. The yellow and grey painted guidon bears the numeral "1" above the letters 'USCC' and the company designation below it.



A Company, 1st Battalion, in dress grey over white summer uniform.

“If an enthusiast wants to include a realistic marching formation in their collection, they must convert the basic figure. That is what I set out to do.”



My figure conversions included a cadet colour guard.



Regular soldiers form the USMA band and 'The Hellcats' drum and bugle corps.

→ 2nd Battalion Mustered

The 2nd Battalion was organised the same way with similar conversions. The group is posed as if it is about to, or is in the process of, passing in review so the guidons are lowered as in present arms. The 2nd Battalion includes three eight-figure groupings from Set 226: 'West Point Cadets, Winter Dress'.

Cadet Colour Party

My last conversion was the cadet colour guard. The figures needed to have their rifle arms removed and replaced with arms moulded to carry flags.

As is the case with sword arms reproduced for old Britains hollow-cast figures, arms with hand loops for carrying flags are readily available. The officer heads and guidon bearer arms took more chiselling down.

Strike Up the Band!

No cadet parade would be complete without its special music. Britains has produced several United States Army bands, but never one representing West Point. Its band is the oldest in the American military establishment and it is made up of regular Army soldier professional musicians, not cadets. For my parade formation, I converted figures to represent a military band along with the drum and bugle corps known as 'The Hellcats'. The name stems from how they traditionally woke up cadets early in the morning to rouse them for a reveille formation that was an unwelcome daily routine. The conversion consisted of replacing

the Britains heads from assorted bandsmen with cadet heads since the headdress worn by the USMA musicians is the same as the cadets. The front piece on the headdress, called a 'tar bucket' by cadets, differentiates it from the cadet shako.

The band's drum major wears a cadet white plume headdress while the officer band leader wears a peaked hat. I painted my band in formal summer dress uniform of blue tunics and white trousers.

Relatively Easy

The process of producing a parade of West Point cadets with their staffs,

colour guard and band by converting old Britains cadets and musicians was not a difficult task for this unskilled craftsman. Replacing arms and heads before repainting basic figures is not really a major challenge for a Britains collector, and it is a practice that has been conducted by many who have desired to customise their collections through the years.

As a former cadet myself, I enjoyed converting standard old Britains West Point cadets to suit my special requirements to behold a virtual parade in miniature. **END**



Old Britains musicians were converted into 'The Hellcats' drum and bugle corps.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Retired US Army Brigadier General Raymond E. Bell Jr, PhD, has been collecting toy soldiers, primarily Britains, since boyhood. He is a regular contributor to military history and toy soldier publications. The New York state resident is a 1957 graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point and taught German and Central European history there. Photographer Stephanie Bell Veneris is his daughter.

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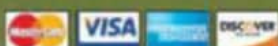
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The Britains 'rocking horse' toy soldier and its almost identical competitors. Only four of them are Britains. The front row are all Britains including a Middlesex Yeoman, a 2nd Life Guard and a fixed-arm 6th Dragoon Guard from Set 8X (note the way that the face has spread rather sloppily over the helmet). The second row is all Heinrich, made in Germany and showing a 2nd Life Guard, a Royal Horse Guard, a 1st Dragoon Guard, two 16th Lancers, a Royal Scots Grey, a 3rd Hussar and a 7th Hussar. The third row, with the exception of the Britains Royal Horse Guard from Set 93, is all Hanks including a 1st Dragoon, a 2nd Life Guard, a 4th Hussar, a 13th Hussar and 7th Hussar. (Author's Collection)

Talking Toy Soldiers with James Opie

Here Comes the Cavalry!

James Opie explores the history of the 'rocking horse' toy soldier.

Text and Photos: James Opie

This time around I would like to tell readers the story of the old Britains early painted metal 'rocking horse' toy soldier, its competitors and its successors. Britains' later designs included 54mm horses with outstretched legs that made it through to the end of metal production and other types that were developed, but somehow never used very much. The title of this article comes, of course, from the clichéd but welcome ending (mostly) to Wild West films featuring the cavalry arriving just in time to save the day while there were still survivors.

Rocking Horse Roots

I have an early cartoon print of a jolly French gentleman out riding that Mary found and thought would look good on our wall. Back in those days before the camera showed things differently, it was common to depict horses in a hurry with all four legs stretched out, but this one is shown in an equally unlikely position titled '*Le Pegase*' ('The Pegasus'). If the horse's front legs were as stretched out as far as the back pair, and he was given a pair of rockers, he would make a perfect rocking horse for a child.

Germanic Figures

Toy soldiers from flats onwards have often used this 'rocking horse' pose to



'*Le Pegase*' artwork. (Author's Collection)

depict a charging horse. One example is No. 2 size figures made by Heyde in Germany recreating the British 4th Light Dragoons spurring in the Charge of the Light Brigade against Russian forces during the Crimean War's Battle of Balaclava in 1854. London-based Britains bought a mould from Germany of a very similar charging lancer for its first range of toy soldiers introduced in 1893. It was used it to form their

nine-piece premium painted sets including Set 4: '12th Lancers (Prince of Wales' Own)', Set 5: '17th Lancers (Duke of Cambridge's Own)' and Set 10: '16th Lancers (Queen's)' that sold for 2/6d a box. Sales were not good. The larger-size Germanic-style Set 6: 'Royal Scots Greys' and Set 7: '7th Royal Fusiliers' priced at 2/- a box sold even more slowly because their size didn't remotely fit in with the rest of the range.

Britains learned its lesson and discontinued them. To replace the charging figure, the maker needed a product that was cheaper to produce and preferably had a movable arm.

1896 Rocking Horse

By 1896, Britains produced the answer with a design that collectors have lovingly dubbed the 'rocking horse' figure. It was equipped with the first easy to make Britains loop and shoulder peg movable arm system ever issued. True to tradition, the horse had a leg at each corner, thus often still being stable even after having lost one. It was also cute, not too large and looked very much like the toy that it was. Looking at the period from 1896-1928, during which

Britains created sets depicting 22 out of the 31 regular cavalry regiments of the British Army as of 1914 and three sets of yeomanry, the 'rocking horse' figure and its

successors were chosen to depict seven of them and to provide officers for a further two. It's a record unsurpassed by any other Britains cavalry figure sequences.



Heyde No. 2 size 4th Light Dragoons at the Battle of Balaclava in 1854. (Author's Collection).



Examples of Germanic 12th Lancers from the Britains Set 4 in the John Ruddle collection. The first variation with unpainted metal helmets and no cap lines appears at right. (Photo Courtesy of C&T Auctioneers).



Old Britains Set 8: '4th Hussars (Queen's Own)'. This is a rather battered incomplete set on 'rocking horses' with a very attractive early box label from the John Ruddle collection. (Photo Courtesy of C&T Auctioneers)



Britains Set 43: '2nd Life Guards' from the John Ruddle collection. (Photo Courtesy of C&T Auctioneers)

The list of Britains sets made with this figure in 1896 includes:

- Set 8: '4th Hussars (Queen's Own)' with trumpeter.
- Set 43: '2nd Life Guards' with trumpeter.
- Set 44: '2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Own)' with trumpeter.
- Set 49: 'South Australian Lancers'.

The extraordinary fact is that Britains had, before this clutch of 'rocking horse' galloping sets, already issued a different galloping horse for the fixed-arm Set 38: 'Dr Jameson and the African Mounted Infantry'. I can only imagine that in the enthusiastic rush to bring such a timely set out, the idea of using the 'rocking horse' for it did not occur to anyone. Today's collectors are delighted that it did not as this set is now one of the 'holy grail' top ten sets when in its original 'Dr Jameson' named box.

Galloping did indeed seem to be in vogue in 1896 as Set 39: 'Royal Horse Artillery' was issued in time for Christmas with a special horse for its fixed-arm officer with a taller plume.

Britains Rocks On

In 1897, Britains trotted out Set 81: '17th Lancers (Active Service Dress)'.

→ The manufacturer drew inspiration from the regiment's role in the Anglo-Zulu War's climactic Battle of Ulundi on 4 July 1879 to model the cavalymen in white Foreign Service helmets, dark blue uniforms, white plastrons, yellow waistbelts and white trouser stripes. The trumpeter and three troopers were mounted on 'rocking horses' and the officer was modelled in Full Dress as in Set 23: '5th Lancers (Royal Irish)', Set 24: '9th Lancers (Queen's Royal)' and Set 33: 16th Lancers (Queen's)'.

Set 83: 'Middlesex Yeomanry' issued in 1898 was quite a special occasion because the five figures included two 'rocking horses', two 'donkey horses', and an

officer on a rearing horse with a green-and-red throat plume. They combined to form Britains' most beautiful cavalry set yet.

Set 94: '21st Lancers (Active Service Order)' appeared in 1899, the year following the British regiment's charge

against Mahdist forces during the Battle of Omdurman in Sudan. The set of miniature 'Heroes of Omdurman & Khartoum' were modelled in khaki Foreign Service Dress with an officer on 'rocking horses'. Also in 1899, the large display boxed Set 93: 'Types of the British Army' featuring the Coldstream Guards and Royal Horse Guards contained two trumpeters and six troopers on 'rocking horses'.

Second-Grade Types

In its struggle to fill every conceivable price point against rampant competition, Britains converted its 'rocking horse' rider to a fixed arm and used it in its X series range. I do not necessarily have a definitive selection of these, but I either possess or have seen examples of the 2nd Life

Guards, Royal Horse Guards, 2nd and 6th Dragoon Guards, and 21st Lancers in second-grade quality that largely mirror best quality sets where 'rocking horses' with riders having movable arms were used. Only one of them tally with the boxes I have found for second-grade sets, so I know that my 6th Dragoon Guards figure comes from Set 8X.

By the time the best quality Set 108: '6th Inniskilling Dragoons (Active Service Order)' was in production in 1901, the new 'one-eared' horse with outstretched feet was available for it, but since the 'rocking horse' fixed-arm figures were in use for second-grade quality figures, the 6th Dragoons were mounted on them too. They never rode 'rocking horses' in best quality.



Britains Set 44: '2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays)'. (Photo Courtesy of Bonhams)



Britains Set 49: 'South Australian Lancers'. The first version wore slouch hats based on cavalymen who attended Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Note how the officer's horse has a front leg missing, but still stands up well. (Photo Courtesy of Bonhams)

Britains Set 94: '21st Lancers (Active Service Order)' depicts the regiment in Foreign Service Dress. This extraordinary Battle of Omdurman display was found in a family's attic. Lancers from nearly five complete Sets 94 unexpectedly come across a large group of German-made Dervishes.



Britains second-grade 'rocking horse' figures include a 2nd Life Guard, a Royal Horse Guard, a pair of 2nd Dragoon Guards and a 6th Dragoon Guard from the left.



With its varied figures and the officer's horse with a throat plume, this second version of Set 83: 'Middlesex Yeomanry' from the John Ruddle collection is one of the most attractive Britains sets ever made. (Photo Courtesy of C&T Auctioneers)

The new trumpeter for Set 44: '2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays)' and a view of the 'one-eared' galloping horse. (Author's Collection)



Examples of 1st Dragoon Guards officers from Set 129 with or without the reins painted in and riding one-eared horses. (Photo Courtesy of C&T Auctioneers)



I think these figures from John Ruddle's collection are Renvoize Boers. They look a bit more rough and ready than Britains. (Photo Courtesy of C&T Auctioneers)



“If the horse's front legs were as stretched out as far as the back pair, and he was given a pair of rockers, he would make a perfect rocking horse.”

Successor Figures

The first successor figure to the 'rocking horse' was the one-eared horse dated '1.1.1901'. With the one exception of Set 81: '17th Lancers (Active Service Dress)', all the sets then currently using the 'rocking horse' switched to the 'one-eared' and dated replacement figure shortly thereafter.

From that point until the appearance of the undated two-eared horse around 1922, some sets were created using the new figure. They included Set 106: '6th Dragoon Guards

the troopers were all on the trotting horse dated '12.12.1902'.

In 1906, the large display Set 129: 'Types of the British Army' contained 70 pieces depicting cavalry regiments including a contingent of 1st Dragoon Guards not otherwise available. These were led by an officer like the one that appears in Set 127 but painted to reflect the change of regiment.

Changes to Prior Figures

Around 1903, the trumpeter in Set 44: '2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays)' was swapped to a trotting horse dated '12.12.1902'.

The Australians of Set 49 changed heads from their original slouch hat quite quickly so that they had a version with their new spiked helmet using the 'rocking horse' figure. From then on, the spiked helmet was standard.

Set 94 changed heads around 1916 to a steel helmet. Candidates for new galloping figures from 1901 to 1922 included Set 136: 'Russian Cavalry (Cossacks)'.

Paris Office

Between 1905 and 1923, the fastest looking new figures possibly designed

(Carabineers)' with short carbines led by an officer based on the RHA galloping officer. This was a rather daring innovation, and it turned out to be the only such regular set reuse of the RHA officer, thus making this set somewhat special. In 1903, the officer in Set 127: '7th Dragoon Guards' made use of the one-eared galloping horse while

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Fantastic Plastics

Kent Welch covers collectable plastic figures.



Austin Miniatures has produced Wild West cowboys in eight different poses.

Austin Miniatures Wild West and World War II releases

Kent Welch reviews makers' latest and greatest plastic figures to be released into the hobby for collectors.

Reviewed by Kent Welch

Many hobbyists dream of producing their own figures reflecting what they are passionate about, in addition to collecting toy soldiers made by others. American Austin Beidelschies of Austin Miniatures is living that dream. Austin Miniatures produces 1/32-scale plastic toy soldiers and 28mm wargaming figures. It is a small, family-run operation. Besides the brand's namesake, the team consists of Austin's parents Dan and Meghan. Austin and Dan lead the creative and production side and Meghan handles the office work. It's an arrangement that Austin says means that "my dad and I get to do the fun stuff."

Wild West Cowboys

Austin Miniatures was launched in 2014 with an eight-figure set of Wild West cowboys and some foam Western buildings.

The cowboys are well sculpted and full of action. These are not sleepy generic figures. Some of these men are clearly angry, while others are coolly leaning into their pistol shots. There are cowboys on the move, seeming to be snapping off a round or two at someone as they head for cover.

Austin said, "We are collectors first, so we want to produce miniatures that we are proud of and want to collect. That's why you never see our figures in boring poses. We prefer our toy soldiers to feel like they are in combat!"

These cowboys would be an excellent addition to any Western scene. They would look great painted or just as they are. In fact, these gunslingers have so much character that I asked Austin if they each had backstories.



A cowboy takes careful aim as he picks out a target.



The cowboys include a man armed with a rifle.



A gunfighter fans his pistol for rapid fire.



One cowboy is sculpted with the mien of a calm and deadly character.



A gunfighter seems angry as he fires two pistols.



A lawman looks like a bit of a fancy dude.

“The cowboys are well sculpted and full of action. These are not sleepy generic figures. Some of these men are clearly angry while others are coolly leaning into their pistol shots. There are cowboys on the move, seeming to be snapping off a round or two at someone as they head for cover.”

“We always like to have the sculptors make a few figures of my dad and I as if we were in that world,” Austin said. Austin and Dan are two of the desperados in this set, but all the characters are strong enough for a name and tangled backstory.

A bagged set of eight figures costs \$10 US with a choice of cowboys moulded in either ‘buckskin brown’ or grey.



Cowboy sculpture with the air of a fellow ready for trouble.



Dynamic figure of an Old West cowboy running and shooting.

World War II US Marines

Austin Miniatures’ other focus is the Pacific Theatre of World War II starting with a set of olive-drab US Marines in six different combat poses.

The maker’s first set of World War II US Marines in the Pacific Theatre features a half-dozen different action poses.





Prototype figures for the second set of US Marines planned by Austin Miniatures.

→ These figures really capture young Leathernecks hitting a beach during an assault on a Japanese-held island. The Americans are posed running, advancing or lunging. Most of them are firing their rifles or machine guns. Their uniforms are appropriately baggy, and these men are loaded with gear. Austin Miniatures' first bagged set of 1/32-scale Marines is made up of twelve figures and sells for \$15. They would blend in quite well with Conte Collectibles or Toy Soldiers of San Diego figures portraying World War II Marines.

The Austin Miniatures team is about to release a second wave of US Marines in all new poses. They include 'Devil Dogs' armed with M1 rifles, a carbine, a Thompson submachine gun and a shotgun.

In keeping with this brand's focus on action, all six poses are firing. The prototype figures look like they are battling to secure a beach or an enemy fixed position. Some are firing downward while others are stopped midstride shooting at an enemy above. Once again, the sculpting and action are excellent.

To provide opposition, Austin Miniatures plans to release plastic Japanese infantry in the future.

Austin told me that what inspires them is "honouring the real heroes and veterans who served in the conflicts we produce figures based on."

Reasonable Pricing

Besides the engaging sculpting, one thing that I appreciate about these figures is the pricing. Where some other makers' unpainted plastic sets are approaching the prices of painted metal sets, Austin Miniatures' offerings are still very affordable. The Beidelschies family also makes smaller-scale modern troops for wargames.

Unfortunately, their figures cannot be purchased directly from their website by collectors from outside the USA, but their European distributors are listed online. Austin Miniatures also posts updates on Instagram and Facebook.

Austin Miniatures plans to attend the 2024 Chicagoland Toy Soldier show on 22 September and promises to have plenty of stock on hand for all buyers.

So, if you are looking to tame an Old West border town or capture a Pacific beachhead, please check out Austin Miniatures. END



Painted prototypes of the World War II Japanese infantry planned for future release.

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PLASTIC APPEAL

Plastic toy soldier manufacturers and traders are invited to send figures in for review. Please direct enquiries to the editor at stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com or reviewer Kent Welch at kentwelch01@gmail.com

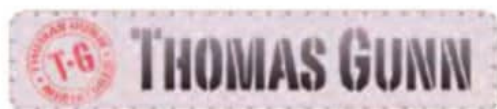
ABOUT THE REVIEWER

American Kent Welch is a long-time Britain's Deetail plastic figures collector. He works in marketing and lives in Tampa, Florida, with his wife Julie and their dog Roxy. He is one of the Collector Guys with multiple platforms devoted to collecting, collectors and their collections. Readers can check them out at Collectorguys.com, TikTok, Instagram and on YouTube under 'Collector Guys'. Enthusiasts can talk to him about toy soldiers at Deetailcollector@gmail.com. This edition marks Kent's debut as this magazine's 'Fantastic Plastics' columnist.



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Model Figures

David Grummitt reviews new unpainted resin and plastic figures and kits.



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ICM

Various New Releases

Reviewed by David Grummitt

We have another release to join the growing range of kits representing the men and women of the Armed Forces of Ukraine who are engaged in their nation's heroic struggle against Russian aggression. 'War Has No Gender: Female Servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine' (ref. 35755) contains four figures, drones and personnel equipment. As of October 2023, there were almost 43,000 female service personnel in the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

It has one of the highest rates of women in the armed forces among the armies of the world, including NATO armies. In the past, women primarily served in auxiliary positions such as doctors, signallers or cooks. However, with the onset of full-scale hostilities in February 2022, more and more

Ukrainian women have taken on combat roles such as driving combat vehicles, operating grenade launchers, firing machine guns, serving as snipers and handling drones. Many women also serve as commanders of combat vehicles, units and reconnaissance groups.

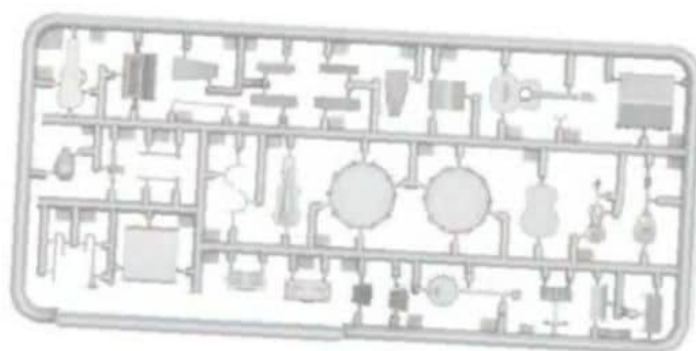
Lieutenant General Serhiy Naiev, the Commander of the Joint Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, has said, "What unites them all is that they are true Ukrainian women who could not stay at home when their Motherland cried out for help to the world. We have noticed and felt how our women have toughened and transformed during a year-and-a-half of large-scale invasion, surpassing, in my opinion, the legendary Amazons."

This new kit is a fitting tribute to those brave women. ICM has also issued an 'Acrylic Paint Set for Wehrmacht Afrika Korps' (ref. 3049). It includes Green Ochre, Buff, German Grey, Middle Stone and Green Brown colours designed for German AFVs and softskins in North Africa between 1941 and 1943. Our thanks to ICM for the product information.

MiniArt

Various New Releases

Reviewed by David Grummitt



MiniArt's 1/35-scale civilian figures are superb and the ideal complement to many military-themed dioramas and vignettes or simply as a standalone project.

'Refugees Musician Family' (ref. 38084) contains two figures: a woman pushing

a pram laden with personal belongings and a male musician carrying his instruments. The latter, of course, could easily be converted to carrying ordinary suitcases.

'Street Musicians 1930s-40s' (ref. 38078) contains three

figures, including a fiddler, a rather Iberian-looking guitar player and a seated man playing an accordion. On a related note, the new 'Musical Instruments' (ref. 35622) sprue common to both of the aforementioned kits or available separately is superb.

It will find a myriad of uses in both military and civilian modelling projects.

'Omnibus Crew and Passengers' (ref. 38092) captures the feel of Britain's home front during the Great War or in its immediate aftermath. The six-figure set is designed to complement the 'B-Type London Omnibus' (ref. 38031) plastic kit released in 2019.

The quality of MiniArt's plastic figures is evident from the photos of the built and painted 'Street Workers'



(ref. 38081) set. The name of this set is a little unfortunate and in fact it contains a road sweeper, a man lighting a streetlamp and a female newspaper seller. They were painted by the very talented Konstantin Pinaev. 'German Tank Riders Ardennes 1944' (ref. 35411) is a very welcome four-figure

set. It shows four Wehrmacht infantrymen wearing M1944 uniforms, short marching boots and *Zeltbahn* ponchos. A range of weapons is provided, but the MG42 in particular looks superb. There was some chatter recently about MiniArt's figures, but you have to remember that these are

plastic model kits. They need building and some modelling techniques to get the best of out of them; they are not high-end resin figures! The built-up examples on the MiniArt website, however, show what great kits these are with some care and skill. Our thanks to MiniArt for the product information.

Its kits are available from all good model shops.

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FC Modeltrend

Various New Releases

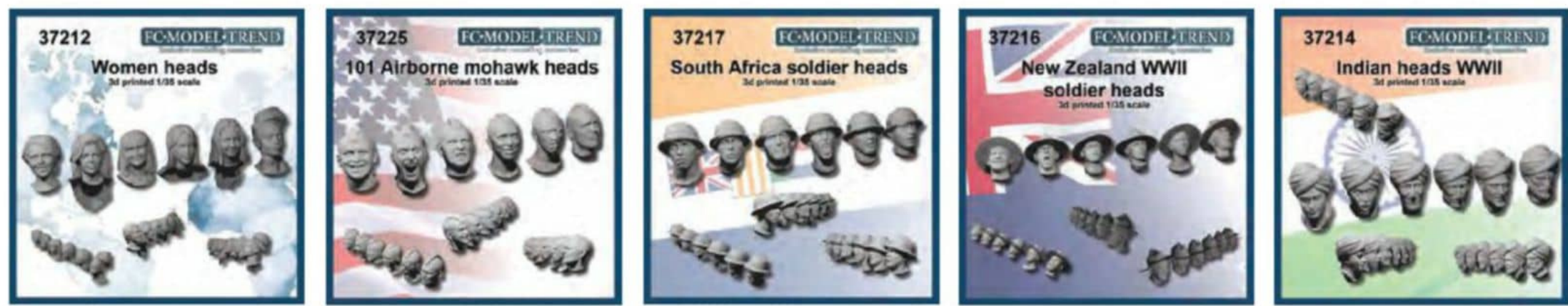
CONTACT
FC Modeltrend
Website: www.fcmodeltrend.com

Reviewed by David Grummitt

Replacing the heads can be a simple way of converting plastic figures to change their nationality or character at a simple stroke. For example, the prolific Spanish 3D designers and printers at FC Modeltrend have released several sets of replacement heads in 1/35 scale covering both military and civilian subjects. 'Indian Heads WWII' (ref. 37214) contains five heads wearing turbans. Some 1.5 million Sikh volunteers in the Indian Army fought alongside the British military during the two World Wars and 83,000 gave their lives during the conflicts. These heads wear the smaller, World War II-type turban and all but one of them have beards.

In a similar vein, 'New Zealand WWII Soldier Heads' (ref. 37216) has six heads wearing the distinctive 'lemon squeezer' campaign hat (which had been adopted after the Gallipoli campaign in World War I). 'South Africa Soldier Heads' (ref. 37217) contains six heads wearing the 'polo pattern' bush helmet. It was introduced in 1935 and was issued to all South African soldiers deployed outside the country during World War II. The helmet was made of cork and was used by all the arms of the Union Defence Force. Finally, we have six '101 Airborne Mohawk Heads' (ref. 37225). I'm not sure how widespread this style was in World

War II, but there are some well-known images of US paratroopers sporting Mohawk Indian-style haircuts on the eve of the D-Day landings 80 years ago. The heads are pretty generic though and can be used for a variety of military and civilian subjects. All these sets are very well done with nice facial expressions and good observation of the distinctive military headdress. Size-wise they are compatible with most 1/35-scale plastic figures. There is also a set of six 'Women Heads' (ref. 37212). I'm not sure these work as well. The detail is a little softer and because most have long hair, it's been necessary to print a longer and wider neck. This will necessitate a bit more work if grafting them onto existing figures, although they are, of course, ideal if you have the skill and inclination to sculpt your own female torsos and limbs.



The figures of a RHA officer and Uxbridge form attractive bookends representative of British forces during the Napoleonic Wars.

Kit Korner: Model Figure Painter's Project

Paul Newman builds and paints a large-scale figure portraying Britain's Earl of Uxbridge during the Napoleonic Wars.

Text and Photos: Paul Newman

I don't know why, but the model figures I've been making lately keep getting bigger and bigger. Perhaps it is my old age creeping up so that to still get the detail, I need to be able to see larger models. Alternatively, perhaps it is the way that models are going generally. Either way, now I have quite a few in my collection that are 90mm and above in scale.

Going around the trade displays at shows, I suspect that the latter case is true. Even the usual 54mm figure is getting to be standardised at 60mm or 1/30-scale rather than 1/32-scale for those who make individual models. The reason I am contemplating size differences is because the latest figure I have for review is a 200mm figure portraying Lord Henry Paget, the earl of Uxbridge. During the Napoleonic Wars' Hundred Days campaign, he was the Duke of Wellington's second-in-command and led

the British cavalry against French forces at the Battle of Quatre Bras on 16 June 1815 and at the Battle of Waterloo in Belgium two days later. References suggest that he wore a light dragoon style shako and dark blue outfit during the clash.

Kit Inspection

This kit was produced by UK-based Mitches Military Models and it cost £65 including postage worldwide. Sculpted by Carl Reid, it is a giant compared to other large figures let alone a 54mm toy soldier.

This is a really big kit and you get a lot for your money here. The model comes in thirteen parts including the base. All the parts are resin, so he will be light for his height. This personality figure will need secure pinning or gluing to a base to prevent it from toppling forward due to most of its weight being above the waist.



“Because of the size of this figure, I decided to paint it like a bust with legs in two sections.”



The resin kit's components are shown straight out of the box.



2 The Paget personality figure's face is nicely sculpted and moulded.



3 Green Stuff epoxy putty was used to correct both eyes and remake the eyelids.

The sculpture stands quite casually with his arms crossed and leaning on his left side with the right foot out. He is looking to his right perhaps talking to someone about the days ahead or gazing the landscape. The base supplied with the figure will suffice for my use, but the model lends itself to showing him standing in front of a building, a tent or some other artifact of warfare. This impressive resin kit comes in grey resin with superb detail. The whole thing looks a bit top-heavy with its large pelisse and voluminous headgear, but once put together it was quite stable.

There is no set of painting instructions or recommended reading provided, so the modeller will need to look up this information. The clothing, face and sabretache have lots of folds and details to paint. The face will pose a challenge to paint because it is so large. Every detail will be noticed, so it must be painted carefully. The sculpting and moulding are terrific with the detail of the lace on the jacket and pelisse being especially crisp. The only difficult part will be removing the large mould blocks from the head, feet and torso. There are no straps

supplied for the delicate scabbard and sabretache, although there are buckles sculpted, so they will need to be cut from a length of pewter or plastic. There is also a gap in the chord holding the pelisse over the shoulders, which will need to be made from putty or wire.

Historical Context

Sir William Henry Paget, 1st Marquis of Anglesey (1768-1854), distinguished himself during the Peninsular War under the command of Lieutenant General Sir John Moore in 1808. At this time, he was not yet Earl of Uxbridge, but simply known as Lord Paget. During the Corunna campaign in Spain, Lieutenant General Lord Paget led the



5 The figure was primed with sprays of both black and white before painting.



4 The leather straps for the scabbard and sabretache were cut from pewter strips.

15th Light Dragoons (Hussars) in a brilliant charge over snowy and frozen ground to soundly defeat two regiments of French cavalry during the Battle of Sahagún on 21 December.

During the afternoon of the Battle of Waterloo, Uxbridge led a heavy cavalry charge against a French

infantry column, but it got out of control as the British horsemen went on to ride uphill against enemy artillery and were decimated by fresh opposing cavalry. About 2,500 British troopers were killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

What is not often noted is that when Uxbridge rode



6 Several different shades of acrylics were used to paint the face.



7 Painting the jacket began with a mix of dark blue and black.



8 A Vallejo white paint set was used for the challenging tones on the fur pelisse.



9 Several different tones were applied to create the gold braiding on the jacket.



10 Gold paint was included because the real thing has gold in the braid.

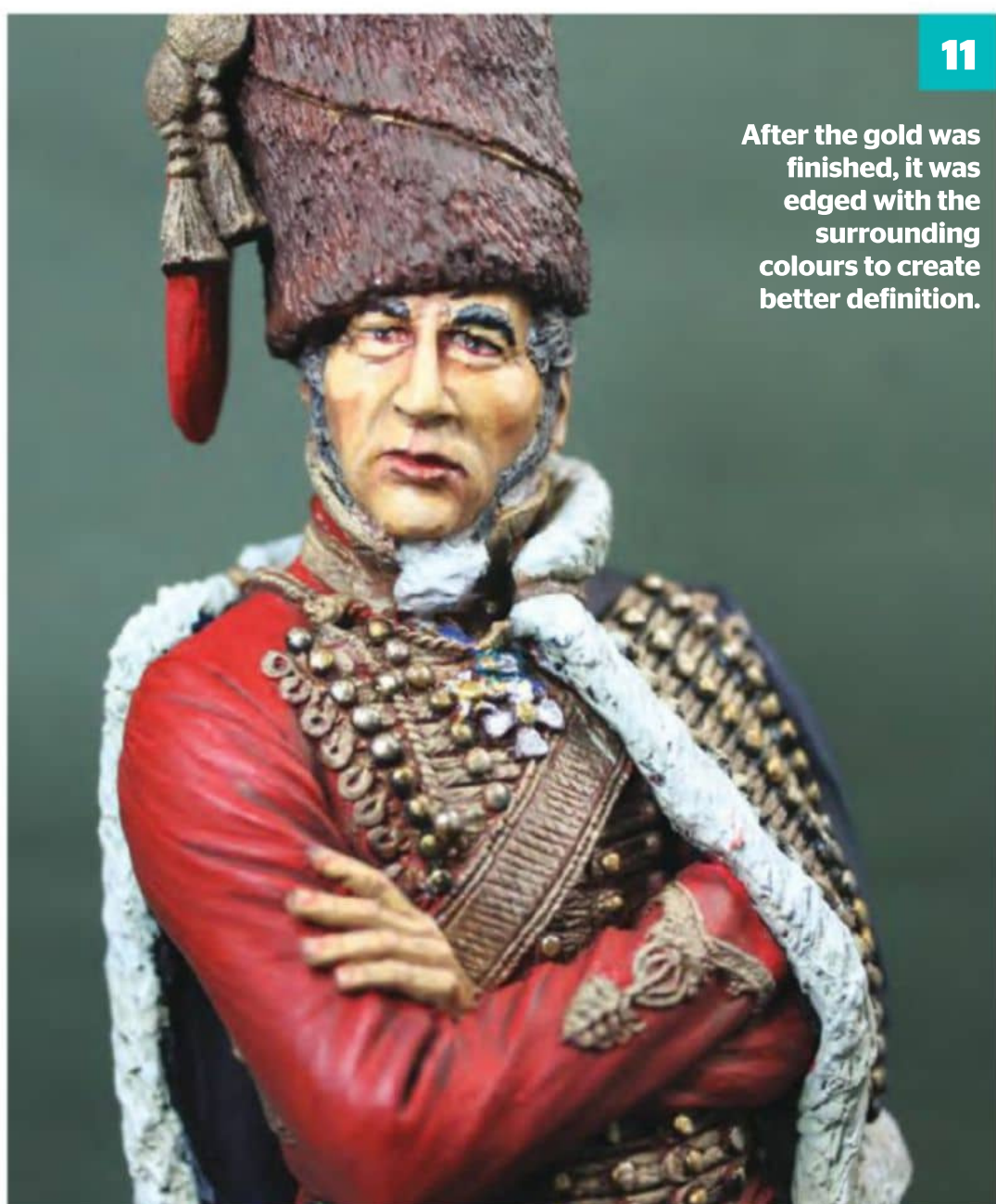
→ back to his lines after failing to recall the cavalry and regretting his needless losses, all the staff around Wellington who had witnessed the action were extremely happy to see that the plain appeared to be swept clean of the enemy and it looked like the battle was over. Sadly, it wasn't. One of the last French artillery canister shots fired that fateful day hit the unfortunate earl in the right leg while he was

riding close to Wellington. Uxbridge exclaimed, 'By God, sir, I've lost my leg!' Momentarily removing his telescope from his eye, the duke replied, 'By God, sir, so you have!' before immediately resuming his scrutiny of his allied army's general advance and the retreat of Napoleon's forces. The terseness of his reaction has been attributed not so much to the moment in the battle but due to

personal friction between them because Paget had been unfaithful to his wife and eloped with Wellington's sister-in-law in 1810. In fact, it must be said that the Duke of Wellington was particularly lucky to come through the battle unscathed. Later that evening he wrote, 'The finger of Providence was upon me, and I escaped unhurt.' Almost all his immediate staff had been

killed or wounded. Lord Fitzroy Somerset lost his right arm to a cannonball while he was riding with his left arm touching the duke's right arm. While talking to Wellington, Colonel Sir William Howe De Lancey was struck in the back by a French cannonball and died at age 37 eight days later.

Three weeks after his leg was amputated above the knee by Wellington's personal



11 After the gold was finished, it was edged with the surrounding colours to create better definition.



12 After being undercoated, the buttons, sword, scabbard, sabretache and belts were painted with gold and red featured.

surgeon, Uxbridge was back in London. The Prince Regent at once created him marquess of Anglesey, declaring 'that he loved him and that he was his best officer and his best subject.' The marquess went on to be appointed as master-general of the ordnance, lord lieutenant of Ireland and lord lieutenant of Staffordshire. He was promoted to field marshal in 1846 and was the honorary colonel of the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) before dying aged 85 in 1854.

Building the Figure

I intended for this model figure to go alongside a Royal Horse Artillery officer of the Waterloo period in the same scale. At first, I thought of



13 The completed figure underwent close inspection before the final phase of the project.



14 Back view of the finished figure.



15 The completed figure stands ready to be mounted on a bookend.



16

Closeup of the finished Paget figure's facial features.

putting them together on the same stand as if they were chatting, but then I realised that the two uniforms were of different dates.

Because they are large yet lightweight figures, my wife Julie suggested that they would make good bookends, if a suitable set of supports could be found. I looked around for a few different options, but none really stood out.

Just as I was about to make my own, we saw in a shop a set of desktop tidies for paper and/or small books. They would need adjusting to be made into bookend bases, but they were the perfect size for the two figures. This also meant that I did not need to do anything with the RHA officer as he could just be glued to his bookend base. The Mitches Military Models representation of Uxbridge was fairly simple to build because it is such a big figure. Large mould blocks on all

parts needed quite a lot of cutting and sanding to get some clean joints, especially the torso because its block is only slightly smaller in diameter than the waist. I used two-part epoxy glue for joining most of the parts together. They were held together with elastic bands and Blue-Tack while the glue dried. Then I glued the feet into the base. The torso and head were constructed in tandem, and pins were applied for holding the figure during painting. Because of the size of this figure, I decided to paint it like a bust with legs in two sections.

I needed to use the hot water technique to make the scabbard pliable enough to cut it from the mould blocks. One eye had a small bubble hole in the pupil, so I used some Green Stuff epoxy putty to correct both eyes and remake the eyelids. The leather straps for the

→ scabbard and sabretache were cut from pewter strips with small scissors. I used super glue to fix these parts. There were quite a few gaps after the pieces were put together, so I applied a wet mix of two-part epoxy putty in the joints to fill them. When dry, these were given a quick sanding to correct any imperfections in the joints. The figure was examined to check its assembly and ensure there were no mould lines before being given a wash in soapy water and a spray of white primer.

Painting Process

For painting information, I went online and found the circa 1812 painting 'Lieutenant General the Earl of Uxbridge' by Peter Stroehling held in the Royal Collections. It shows the officer in grey trousers, but another portrait shows him in white breeches with black boots and gold tassels.

Since this figure will need a lot of shading and highlighting, I decided to give the model a couple of sprays of primer, once in black and then from above in white. Both were done rather lightly, with more white resting upon the head from the top front.

The main painting was done using acrylics in my now usual style of applying an undercoat in the base colour and then painting a couple of tones lighter and darker by mixing the base colour with the other tones. I started with the face, with the eyes and then basic shading of the flesh tones and then blending the shading and highlights to finish. Key paints used were Vallejo Model Color Medium Flesh Tone (70.860), Ochre Brown (70.856), Flat Flesh (70.955), Burnt Red (70.814), Burnt Umber (70.941) and Off-White (70.820).

All the clothing was finished in acrylics, starting with the blue jacket using a mix of Dark Prussian Blue (70.999) and Black (70.950). I used a Vallejo white paint set for the white trousers and challenging tones on the fur pelisse.

The sash was painted in a mix of Red (70.926) and the Dark Prussian Blue for the shadows. The busby was painted in mixes of brown going to an almost black in the shadows.

After the gold was finished, I went over its edges with darker shades of the surrounding blue and red colours where appropriate to give the lines better definition and correct any mistakes in the painting.

The black leather parts of the boots were painted in a matt black undercoat and then washes of gloss black mixed with Burnt Umber.

The buttons, sword and scabbard were undercoated in a mix of Glossy Black (70.861) and Burnt Umber. They were painted in Brass (70.801) mixed with Burnt Umber for the shadows and highlights of the brass mixed with Vallejo Liquid Gold Silver (70.790). The sabretache and belts were painted in red and gold as before.

After the whole model was assembled and painted, I inspected it to make sure I was happy with the finished figure.

Finishing Touches

The groundwork was created from just a sprinkling of woodland-style debris, and some teased out fibres, with stones and the terrain painted in brown and grey mixes. I wanted to have a minimum of groundwork to show off the leather boots.

After finding a suitable wooden base for the figure,

I glued it on one end of the bookends with my model of a RHA officer on the other side.

Once painted, this is a beautiful new model and I now have a suitable set of bookends for my study! END

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ABOUT THE WRITER

Paul Newman is a keen modeller whose main interest is the Napoleonic Wars, particularly British cavalry. He is a long-time member of the British Model Soldier Society and serves as its treasurer, while his wife, Julie, is its secretary. Together they help spearhead organising the BMSS Annual Show. Paul's memberships have also included Planetfigure and The Basement. In addition, the Newmans operate Name It! providing engraved nameplates to model figure enthusiasts. They can be found manning their stand at many major European shows.

17

The earl of Uxbridge figure is mounted on a bookend.



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A Look at Books

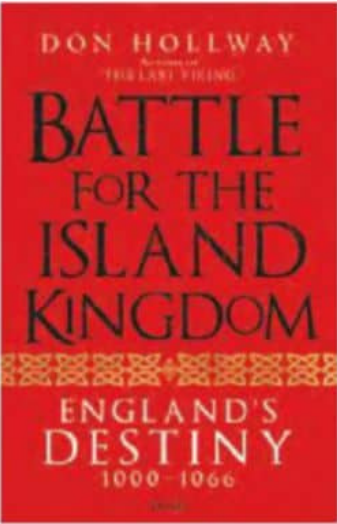
Our reviewers check out some new books that might pique the interest of hobbyists and history buffs.

Battle for the Island Kingdom

ABOUT THE BOOK

Author: Don Hollway
Published by: Osprey Publishing
ISBN: 9781-47285-893-1
Price: £20/\$30 US
Reviewed by Leo Winston

Battle for the Island Kingdom: England's Destiny 1000-1066 delves into so much intrigue, sexual politics and bloody conflicts that it might be mistaken for a medieval fantasy epic like television's *Game of Thrones* or a historical drama such as *The Lost Kingdom*. Instead, Don Hollway's new book details the history behind how Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans vied for supremacy by drawing from original sources.



The 'actors' include Viking Cnut the Great, who is forging three nations into a North Sea empire, while his Saxon spouse Aelfgifu rules in his stead and hatches schemes to gain England's throne. Her archenemy is Emma of Normandy, the widow of Saxon King Aethelred. Their sons become pawns in their mothers' wars.

Meanwhile, Godwin of Wessex plays all sides against each other until his son Harold emerges as the king of all England. Then there's yet another twist as Harold's brother Tostig turns traitor and joins the Viking army of King of Norway Harald Hardrada until they both met their fate in the Battle of Stamford Bridge on 25 September 1066. Adding to the drama is how William I is fighting to secure his position as Duke of Normandy, while casting his covetous gaze across the Channel to English crown leading up to the fateful Battle of Hastings on the following 14 October.

The author's narrative is buoyed by authentic accounts of everyday life from what people ate to wedding celebrations and more in this 432-page hardback book complete with a middle section of colour photographs and plates.

Our thanks to the publisher (ospreypublishing.com) for providing a review copy.

Military Dogs of World War II

ABOUT THE BOOK

Author: Susan Bulanda
Published by: Casemate Publishers
ISBN 978-1-63624-325-2
Price: £24.95/\$28.95 US
Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

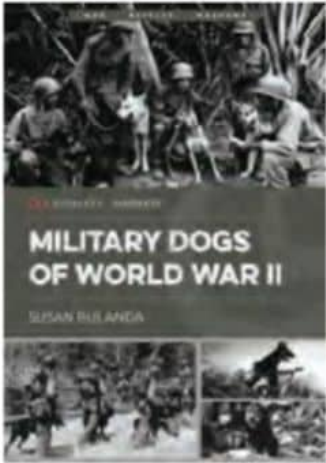
Though my wife Sally and I have three cats, we love dogs too just like the many canine owners in our extended families, our friends and neighbours, so I have a hunch that author Susan Bulanda's new book *Military Dogs of World War II* holds appeal not only for history buffs but perhaps a more mainstream readership too.

The American writer's expertise stems from her being a certified animal behaviour consultant and a founding member of the National Search Dog Alliance. In addition, she and her husband Larry ran a K9 search-and-rescue team for twenty years and she worked as an adjunct college professor.

This 128-page paperback traces how animals have served in mankind's wars since time immemorial – especially dogs. Then the author's narrative is combined with a plethora of black-and-white and colour illustrations to show how different Allied and Axis combatant nations deployed dogs on the home front and on battlefields. Canines searched for wounded soldiers or downed airmen, carried messages, dragged communications wires in rugged terrain, worked with medics, lugged supplies, detected mines, vigilantly served on sentry duty and more during World War II.

Riveting stories of individual dogs who served include a collie named Rob, who made more than twenty parachute jumps in North Africa; the Soviet Red Army's Barss, who sniffed out German sharpshooters for his handlers; and lifesavers like Imma, who could detect people who had been buried alive during German aerial bombing attacks on Britain.

Like all the other books in the 'Casemate Illustrated' series, this is an excellent resource for creating toy soldier dioramas, wargaming and modelling. Our thanks to the publisher (casematepublishers.com) for a review copy.



German High Seas Fleet 1914-18

ABOUT THE BOOK

Author: Angus Konstam

Illustrator: Edouard A. Groult

Published by: Osprey Publishing, Fleet 2

ISBN: PB 9781-47285-647-0

Price: £15.99/\$23 US

Reviewed by Stephen Healey

German High Seas Fleet 1914-18: The Kaiser's Challenge to the Royal Navy is one of four different paperbacks issued in the new 'Fleet' series launched by Osprey Publishing. Author Angus Konstam delivers a concise but detailed history of the *Kaiserliches Marine* (Imperial German Navy) following unification and how the Home Fleet was constructed, functioned and fought.

It began as a coastal defence unit, but it underwent rapid expansion after 1907 with the creation of the High Seas Fleet. Germany knew it would be a challenge to face-off against the Royal Navy, but Kaiser Wilhelm II wanted a powerful fleet to rank as a great power, support overseas colonies and achieve his imperial ambitions.

U-boats became a menace in the Atlantic Ocean during World War I, but the German surface fleet was largely bottled up in the North Sea and the Baltic by Britain and unable to try to break the economic blockade. Also, the Germans could not aid their Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman allies in the Mediterranean Sea. The British were determined to maintain



their naval supremacy by deploying their capital ships and exploiting geographic factors to stifle the Germans.

German Grand Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz developed his 'risk theory' early in the twentieth century, while drawing inspiration from US Navy officer and strategist Alfred Mahan's influential book *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660-1783* (1890). The idea was that if the High Seas Fleet could become large enough to challenge the Royal Navy, any conflict would be less likely to occur, and that if things came to blows, losses the British would suffer would greatly reduce their position of power. No one power would be dominant unless a 'third fleet' (whomever that might be) stepped in to take the spoils.

The Battle of Jutland was fought between British and German battleships and their escorts from 31 May to 1 June 1916 off the North Sea coast of Denmark. The outcome of World War I's largest naval battle was inconclusive, though both sides claimed victory.

Afterward the High Seas Fleet, including its ten dreadnoughts, was largely kept in harbour by the risk adverse Kaiser. The Royal Navy maintained its numerical superiority with 23 dreadnoughts and four battlecruisers available for battle. In its final dénouement, the High Seas Fleet was scuttled by its own sailors while being held in the Royal Navy harbour at Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands of Scotland on 21 June 1919.

This 80-page paperback describes the German fleet's organisation, types of ships and the technology used to protect them, crew training, sea battles, one-off raids on the coasts of England and Scotland, and even how zeppelins were used to gather intelligence and coordinate operations. Original artwork by Edouard A. Groult, 3D diagrams and archival photos enhance this recommended book.

Our thanks to the publisher (ospreypublishing.com) for providing a review copy.

Muskets & Springfields

ABOUT THE BOOK

Author: Nigel Emsen

Illustrator: Jose Manuel Rando Chacon

Published by: Helion & Company

ISBN 978-1-804512-91-3

Price: £25/\$37.50 US

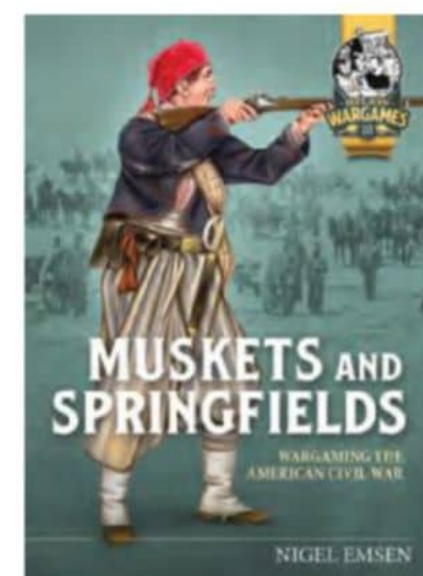
Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

Muskets & Springfields: Wargaming the American Civil War 1861-1865 shows how to play big battles without having to be dependent on any particular scale of model combatants and by using a player's current basing system.

Author Nigel Emsen has been wargaming since the early 1980s and still enjoys playing with Airfix plastic 1/72-scale figures and accessories. He sets up this game at the

operational level with each player commanding an army with corps-sized subgroups typically composed of several infantry brigades, cavalry and artillery batteries. Morale is handled at the corps level. Attrition is held to an individual unit's base. Emsen's flexible system even makes it possible to add elements such as Native American warriors to the fray. Checkerboard-like grids are used as this game system's unit of measurement.

The author's sensible and flexible rules provide an engaging option for wargaming the ACW and other historical conflicts with all types of miniatures in a way that could hold appeal for everyone from beginners to experienced tabletop generals. Our thanks to the publisher's (www.helion.co.uk) US distributor Casemate Publishers for a review copy.



The Philadelphia Campaign 1777

ABOUT THE BOOK

Author: Michael C. Harris

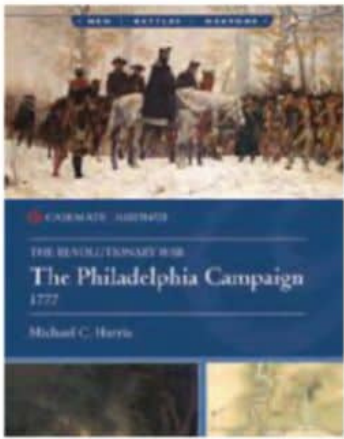
Published by: Casemate Publishers

ISBN 978-1-63624-264-4

Price: £24.95/\$24.95 US

Reviewed by Stuart A. Hessney

Philadelphia’s nicknames include the Cradle of Liberty for its pivotal role in the American Revolution. It was the busiest port and biggest city in the Thirteen Colonies, and it ranked second only to London among the most populous metropolises in the British Empire. The Pennsylvania city’s central location and importance made it a natural nexus for American revolutionaries. Those factors are reasons why capturing the city was a key British military objective as detailed in the new book *The Philadelphia Campaign 1777* by Michael C. Harris.



Between 1775 and 1781, Philadelphia played host to the Second Continental Congress at the Pennsylvania State House, which was later renamed Independence Hall. The delegates’ adoption of the Declaration of Independence on 4 July 1776 was tantamount to declaring war against the world’s greatest military power.

After battles fought in New Jersey at Trenton on 26

December 1776 and Princeton on 3 January 1777, the British Army planned two separate campaigns to subdue the North American rebels. In the spearhead of a three-pronged attack, General John Burgoyne led the main British force down the Lake Champlain-Hudson River corridor toward Albany, New York, but it ended in disaster with his surrender after the Battles of Saratoga on 19 September and 7 October.

Meanwhile, General William Howe enlisted the Royal Navy to transport his army from the port of New York to Chesapeake Bay to land in north-eastern Maryland. The author details how Howe went on to defeat General George Washington’s Continental Army in the Battle of Brandywine in south-eastern Pennsylvania on 26 September 1777. That victory and other more minor engagements made it possible for Howe to outmanoeuvre Washington, seize defenceless Philadelphia and begin a nine-month occupation.

Washington launched a daring, but unsuccessful attack aimed at retaking the city in the Battle of Germantown on 4 October 1777. In the meantime, British forces secured control of access to the Delaware River before settling into winter quarters. Though Washington was repeatedly beaten in battle, his efforts combined with Burgoyne’s defeat during 1777 led to the American Patriots’ alliance with France and their ultimate victory. Philadelphia served as the US national capital from 1790 to 1800, while Washington, D.C., was being constructed. This 128-page paperback addition to the ‘Casemate Illustrated’ line-up features artwork, maps and photographs that add colourful context to this key campaign’s role in the war’s outcome.

Our thanks to the publisher (casematepublishers.com) for a review copy.

Ottoman Armies 1820-1914

ABOUT THE BOOK

Author: Gabrielle Esposito

Illustrator: Giuseppe Rava

Published by: Osprey Publishing, Men-at-Arms 551

ISBN: 9781-47285-893-1

Price: £12.99/\$20 US

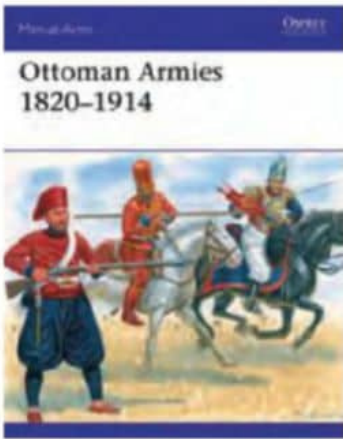
Reviewed by Stephen Healey

Great Powers referred to the Ottoman Empire the ‘sick man of Europe’ as it was repeatedly faced by internal insurgencies and foreign foes, including Russian expansionism aspirations and Austro-Hungarian hostility, during the period between the conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 and the eruption of World War I in 1914. Britain and France supported the Ottomans during the Crimean War of 1854-56, one of my personal toy soldiers collecting interests, but not the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78.

Gabrielle Esposito’s new book *Ottoman Armies 1820-1914* traces the empire’s history during this pivotal period marked

by as many as ten wars involving regional insurgencies and foreign territorial grabs fought in far-flung places ranging from North Africa to the Middle East and the Balkans. The author details how the multi-ethnic Ottoman Empire still operated like a medieval Islamic state and it was undermined by corruption and nepotism. Sultans exerted direct control over Anatolia, but provincial governors ruled virtually independently.

Photographs and artwork, including vivid colour illustrations by Giuseppe Rava, illuminate this 48-page paperback’s exploration of the appearance, uniforms and arms of the amazingly multi-ethnic and colourful Ottoman armies of this tumultuous period. Our thanks to the publisher (ospreypublishing.com) for supplying a review copy.



Write a Book Review!

Do you have a non-fiction book of interest that you’d like to review in *TSC&HF*? Then please get in touch with the editor, Stuart A. Hessney, about requirements via

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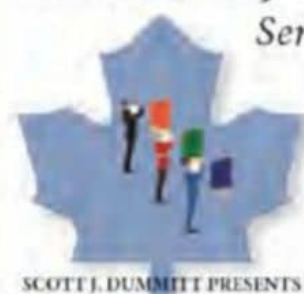
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Calendar of Events

Organisers must submit show details in advance and any subsequent updates via email to stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com.
Readers are urged to check with organisers and online about possible postponements or cancellations before finalising plans to attend an event.

February

Saturday, 24 February, Heart of the South Toy Soldier, Military & Miniature Figure Show & Sale, Annandale VFD Community Centre, 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Va., USA. 09:00 to 15:00. Admission \$5; children under age 10 free. Contact: Ed Gries of Relic Golden Amusements, US tel: +1 (201) 257-2687 or (201) 342-6475 and on Facebook.

March

Saturday and Sunday, 2-3 March, Montreux Miniatures Show, Salle Omnisports, Clarens, Switzerland. 11:00 to 18:00 Saturday and 10:00 to 16:30 Sunday. Free admission. The event will feature traders, demonstrations of painting figures and scale models, Warhammer tournaments, and an international competition. Website: www.mtxms.ch.

Sunday, 3 March, West Coaster Toy Soldier Show and Sale, new venue: Pasadena Elks Lodge, 400 West Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena, California, USA. 09:30 to 15:00. Admission \$8 or two for \$15; children under age 15 free. Early admission at 08:00 \$20. Contact: Matthew Murphy of Hobby Bunker, US tel: +1 (781) 321-8855 or email matt@hobbybunker.com.

Saturday and Sunday, 9 and 10 March, *Frammenti de Storia* (Fragments of History) toy soldier show and competition, Hotel Delta Florence, Via Vittorio Emanuele, 3, 50041 Calenzano FI, Italy. 14:00-17:00 Saturday and 09:00-16:00 Sunday. Website: www.lacondotta.net.

Sunday, 17 March, Midwest Toy Soldier Show, Courtyard by Marriott Conference Center, 150 Fairington Avenue, Lafayette, Indiana, USA. 10:00-15:00. Admission \$7. Children under age twelve free with an adult. Hotel room trading the preceding Friday and Saturday. Presented by the Midwest Toy Soldier Group. Contact: Steve Connell, US tel: +1 (734) 455-0724 or email: sconnell51@comcast.net; Rod Chapman, US tel: +1 (740) 924-2531; or Rick Keller, US tel: +1 (765) 430-6289; Website: www.mwtoysoldier.com.

Sunday, 17 March, New Jersey Toy Soldier Show and Sale, Wayne Police Athletic League (PAL), 1 Pal Drive, Wayne, New Jersey, USA. 09:00 to 15:00. Admission \$6; children under age 10 free. Contact: Ed Gries of Relic Golden Amusements, US tel: +1 (201) 342-6475, or Matthew Murphy of Hobby Bunker, (781) 321-8855.

Saturday, 23 March, Spring Show sponsored by Guideline Publications, Haverstock School, 24 Haverstock Hill, Chalk Farm, London NW3 2BQ, United Kingdom. Europe's No. 1 toy soldier show plus traders specialising in all the modelling and collecting interests covered by Guideline's varied magazines including military, aviation, fantasy, truck, car, farm and railway subjects. Club stands, competitions and demonstrations will be featured. Hours: 09:30 to 10:30 (early bird admission £10), 10:30 to 14:00 (£6) and 14:00 to 16:00 (£4); prepaid tickets £5 from 10:30; children under age sixteen free. Contact: Stella Reason: UK tel: +44 (0)1582 668411 or email stella@guidelinepublications.co.uk for information, trader reservations and tickets; Tom Foxon: UK tel: +44 (0)7540 153368 or email: tom@guidelinepublications.co.uk regarding general enquiries. Website: www.toysoldiershow.co.uk or email: tom@guidelinepublications.co.uk regarding general enquiries. Website: www.toysoldiershow.co.uk.

April

Saturday, 13 April, Sword & Lance model making and militaria exhibition sponsored by the Darlington Military Modelling Society. Northern Echo Arena, Darlington Mowden Park RFC DL2 1DL. 09:30 to 16:00. Admission £6; children under age sixteen free. Features trader and club stands, bring and buy, and an open competition. Website: www.swordandlance.co.uk.

Sunday 21 April, Gettysburg Toy Soldier Show, Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Center, 2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA. 10:00-15:00. Admission \$7. Children under age twelve free with an adult. Presented by the Midwest Toy Soldier Group. Contacts same as above.

Thursday to Sunday, April 18 to 21, Little Wars convention presented by the Historical Miniatures Gaming Society's Midwest Chapter, Westin Chicago Lombard, 70 Yorktown Shopping Center, Lombard, Illinois, USA. The event will feature four days of historical, fantasy and science fiction gaming, parent/child games, a painting contest, and traders. Website: www.hmgsmidwest.com.

Saturday, 27 April, British Model Soldier Society Annual Show, Salvation Army Reading Central, Anstey Road, Reading RG1 7SN. The doors open at 10:30. Admission £5 for the public; £4 for BMSS members. Features trade stands, competitions, displays, demonstrations, and paint and take for children. The open competitions entry fees are £2 for non-members and £1 for members. Competition entries close at 13:00. Contact: UK tel: +44 (0)1895 832757; Website: www.bmssonline.com.

May

Friday and Saturday, 3-4 May, Miniature Figure Collectors of America 81st Annual Show & Mart, Radisson Hotel Philadelphia East, 2400 Old Lincoln Highway, Trevose, Pennsylvania, USA. The event features an exhibition and vendors. Website: www.mfcaclub.com.

Saturday, 18 May, Plastic Warrior Show. Harlequin Suite, Winning Post Inn, Chertsey Road, Whitton, Twickenham, London TW2 6LS. Opens at 10:30. Contact: UK tel: +44 (0)1483 830743 email: pw.editor3@gmail.com or pw.editor@ntlworld.com; online: plasticwarrioreditor.blogspot.co.uk.

Sunday, 19 May, Ohio Toy Soldier Show, Galaxy Restaurant and Banquet Center, 201 Park Center Drive, Wadsworth, Ohio, USA. 10:00-15:00. Admission \$5. Children under age twelve free with an adult. Presented by the Midwest Toy Soldier Group. Contacts same as above

June

Saturday, 1 June, Heart of the South Toy Soldier, Military & Miniature Figure Show & Sale, Annandale VFD Community Centre, 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Va., USA. Details and contacts same as above..

Saturday, 15 June, Ontario Model Soldier Society On Parade, New Venue: Franklin Horner Community Centre, 432 Horner Avenue, Toronto (Etobicoke), Canada. Hours: 09:00-15:00. Admission \$10; children under age 12 free. Contact: Chairman Jim Qualtrough, tel: +1 (416) 543-0873; email: omss.bell.net or Website: www.omss.ca.

Organisers must submit show details in advance and any subsequent updates via email to stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com. Readers are urged to check with organisers and online about possible postponements or cancellations before finalising plans to attend an event.

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Prize Exercise

Win a US Anti-Tank Team from W. Britain

WIN

By Stuart A. Hessney

This time *TSC&HF* readers have an exclusive chance to win three 1/30-scale sets from W. Britain Model Figures for depicting World War II US Army artillerymen in action.

The centrepiece is a 'Holding the Line' (ref. 25146) set featuring a 3in M5 antitank gun and its four-man crew in wintertime action against German forces. The M5 was issued to US tank destroyer battalions beginning in 1943. It outperformed its predecessors, but the M5's effectiveness was hindered by its hefty weight and ammunition-related issues.

Company President and Creative Director Kenneth A. Osen observed, "Losses suffered by towed TD battalions in the Battle of the Bulge were heavy, but the M5 did its job – it had to."

The prize package also includes an 'Add-on Set' (ref. 25148) made up of soldier talking on a Type EE-8 field telephone, a gunner shouldering a round, and spare ammo similar to how the nineteen-piece 'Anti-Tank Gun Accessory Set' (ref. 25147) illustrates how M5 shells were usually shipped in water-resistant cardboard tubes packed in wooden crates.

This extremely generous prize package has an aggregate retail value of \$554 US, but one very lucky reader can win it simply by sending in the correct answer to the following question:

Former US President and Supreme Allied Commander in Europe Dwight D. Eisenhower denounced the *Battle of the Bulge* movie (1965) due to glaring historical inaccuracies. For example, what type of Allied armour stood in for the German King Tiger tank?

A. US M24 Chaffee tank

B. British Tank, Infantry, Mk IV (A22) Churchill

C. US M47 Patton tank

D. French Renault FT



Our readers have a chance to win a World War II US Army antitank team and more courtesy of W. Britain Model Figures.



A radio operator and ammo are featured in the 'US 3-inch Anti-tank Gun Add-on Set' (ref. 25148).

HOW TO WIN!

All entries must be submitted with your complete contact details, including a daytime telephone number. Entries should be emailed to *TSC&HF* Editor Stuart A. Hessney at stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com. All entries must be received by 1 April 2024. Good luck!



The contents of the fabulous prize package generously provided by W. Britain Model Figures.

Previous Winner Announced

Congratulations to the very lucky winner of the issue 112 prize competition featuring a fantastic gift package generously supplied by W. Britain Model Figures in celebration of the brand name's 130th anniversary in 2023.

The prize encompasses an array of metal toy soldiers painted in either traditional gloss or matt finishes recreating a wide swath of history. The maker's Super Deetail plastic range is represented by a Confederate artillery set. Also included are three metal signs with Britains themes along with copies of both a catalogue and an issue of *The Standard*, the exclusive journal of the W. Britain Collectors' Club.

This very generous gift package has an aggregate retail value of \$540 US, but lucky American reader Daniel Schneider won it by correctly answering that Dennis Britain was the last member of the founding family to serve at the helm of the eponymous toy soldier brand launched in London in 1893. Congratulations to the very fortunate winner and thanks to all the other readers from around the world who submitted entries. Please keep on trying because you've got to be in it to win it!

CONTACT

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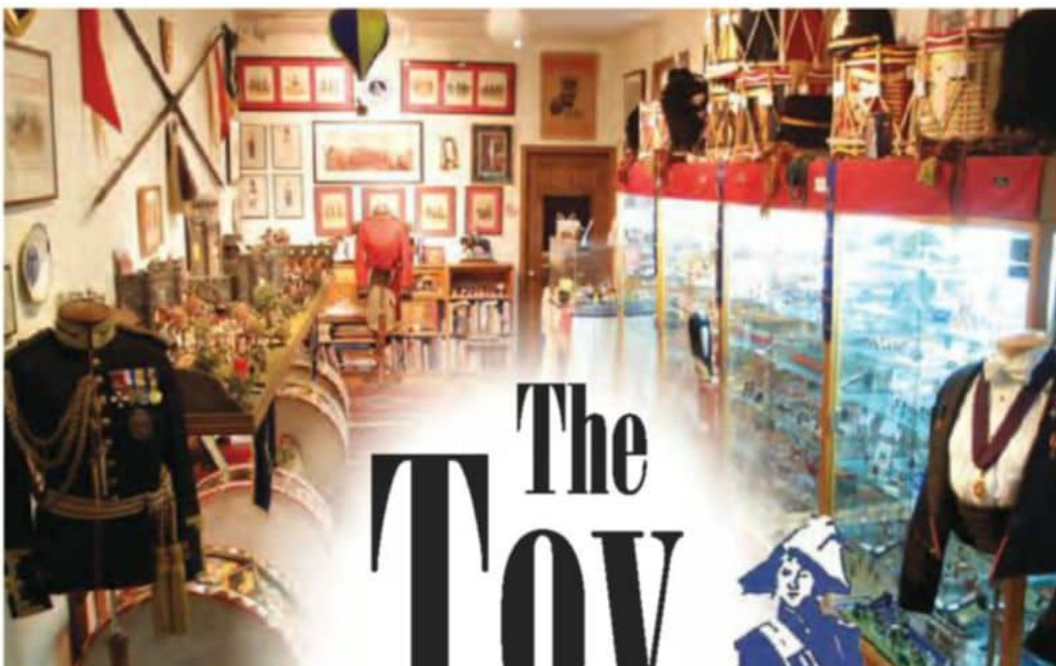
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The Last Word

Feedback from readers who want to sound off about our hobby or this magazine is always welcome. Letters can be sent via email to stuart@guidelinepublicationsusa.com. All correspondence must include your full name, address and daytime telephone number in case verification is needed. Letters may be edited for length or clarity. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.

Collector Enjoyed Reading 'Lion of the Punjab' Article

Dear Editor:

I really enjoyed Colin Luxford's 'Lion of the Punjab' article about British East India Company (EIC) Brigadier General John Nicholson that appeared in issue 114. I've read a great deal about the first half of the nineteenth century, particularly British India and the men who built the empire. They were a fascinating mix of adventurers, administrators and soldiers who ended up in a places so far away and foreign from anything they knew back home that it must have seemed like being on another planet. They included colourful men like American adventurers Josiah Harlan, who enlisted as a military surgeon in the EIC despite his lack of medical training and became an Afghan prince; and Alexander Gardner, who served as a colonel in the Sikh Empire's army. Londoner Charles Masson became an EIC soldier, explorer, archaeologist and expert on Ancient India and Afghanistan.

Brigadier General Sir Henry Lawrence and Scotsman Captain Sir Alexander Burnes explored and flew the British flag in many far-flung parts of the Far East. Others who come to mind include Sir Hugh Gough, Sir Robert Sale and Sir Colin Campbell to name but three men who fought many battles for queen and country in far-off places that many people back home in Britain would have never heard of.

I also enjoyed seeing Colin's photographs of his various figures representing EIC forces at the time of the Indian Revolution in 1857. Figures in a battle scene include a sepoy waving the EIC flag composed of a Union standard at top left along with red and white stripes that look similar to the US flag. I think the American flag might have been based on the EIC one, if I am correctly recalling something that I read some years back.

I've been building my own EIC army based around the Anglo-Sikh Wars range by Dorset Soldiers, plus some bespoke sets of Bengal native infantry and light cavalry along with Madras infantry and rifles. W. Britain did some suitable 1/32-scale painted metal figures as part of its 'Victoria Cross' range a few years ago. I've recruited

Colin Luxford's battle scene includes a sepoy waving the EIC flag.



figures by Irregular Miniatures and Tradition of London Ltd. too.

I am currently reinforcing my collection via Antony Spencer of Imperial Miniatures Ltd. since he is carrying on the Dorset range. So far, I have obtained Sikh infantry and artillery. A Sikh command group is in the works to face 'John Company' forces led by Gough.

Michael Clitheroe

UK

The Greek letter lambda (Λ) appears inverted on this hoplite's shield.



Inverted Ancient Greek Letter On Spartan Warrior's Shield

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed seeing modeller Paul Newman's issue 114 instalment of 'Kit Korner' about researching, building and painting an Ancient Greek hoplite model figure from Master Box. He notes how he decided to paint the face of the shield with a capitalised Greek letter lambda (Λ) that stood for Lacedaemon, the capital of the Spartan state. Paul has always demonstrated how he strives for historical accuracy through the years. Consequently, I would like to let him know that I admire the nice work on the Spartan, but I think his Greek needs a little help because a capitalised lambda is written as 'Λ'. Perhaps Paul had a particular reason to paint the symbol upside-down or maybe his Spartan wished to communicate that things are a bit topsy-turvy back in Lacedaemon.

Peter Nussbaum

USA

The Editor Responds:

Thanks for sharing your insight and your sense of humour. Perhaps the Spartan has simply shifted how he is holding his shield as he charges into action, but it's all Greek to me!

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Toy Soldier Collector & Historical Figures prides itself on being the 'go-to' magazine for collectors of toy and model figures of all shapes and sizes.

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Coming Next Time in Issue 116 of *Toy Soldier Collector & Historical Figures*



THE TEARS OF HEAVEN

Harry Anderson assembles a cast of figures to tell a yarn about mourning and murderous intrigue in medieval Japan.



IMPERIAL GERMAN WARGAMES

Joe DeMarco researches, musters and makes figures for dioramas inspired by pre-World War I wargames in Imperial Germany.

KING & COUNTRY'S

From The Halls of Montezuma...



USMC068



USMC069

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During WW2 the number of Marines grew from almost **55,000** men in 1941 to nearly **500,000** by 1945 with the vast majority seeing action all across the Pacific from the steaming jungles of **Guadalcanal** to the volcanic, black sands of **Iwo Jima** and many points in between.

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Goose Green 1982

At 0300 hrs. on 28 May, 1982 2 Para began the attack on the Argentine airfield and garrison at Darwin and Goose Green on East Falkland. Their mission was to retake the civilian settlements there, liberate 112 Falkland islanders held captive by the Argentines and protect the right flank of the British Task Force.

2 Para's assault faced stiff opposition almost as soon as it set off. Strong enemy positions brought down a hail of mortar and machine gunfire on the British paratroopers as they moved forward across the open, windswept landscape.

By 1200 hrs on the same day, after elements of 2 Para were held up the battalion commander, **Lt. Col. 'H' Jones** went forward to see for himself the situation and lead a flanking attack on an enemy machine gun position. As he charged towards the enemy gun, firing from the hip, he was hit by another MG and was killed!

His flanking attack both distracted the opposition and inspired his own men. Within 15 minutes the enraged British paratroopers had taken the Argentinean position and the assault once again moved forward.

Over the next grueling 24 hours, 2 Para continued to battle their way towards their objective suffering a number of casualties



but inflicting even more on the enemy.

At 1300 hrs on 29 May the Argentine garrison surrendered and the paras watched 'gobsmacked' to see almost 1100 prisoners gather under a white flag.



K&C's TRIBUTE TO 2 PARA

These 8 latest 1:30 scale, all-metal, hand-painted fighting Falklands figures include one of **Lt. Col. 'H' Jones V.C.** as well as 7 other 2 Para soldiers carrying various weapons and adopting different attacking poses.

For more details about these new 'Falklands' figures or indeed K&C's other 'Falklands War' collection simply contact one of the addresses shown below or check out our website at:

www.kingandcountry.com

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